

The AIDS bench is back!

Missing in action for more than a year, the memorial bench has a new home.

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Soulforce activists arrested

Group vows to fight criminal charges following confrontation.

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Gene Kelly nostalgia

'Singing in the Rain' returns to the Castro.

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Feed others, feed yourself this coming Thanksgiving

by Zak Szymanski

It is time again to plan where you'll spend the Thanksgiving holiday—as a volunteer to help those in need, as a person who needs a place to eat, or both.

There are several organizations offering free communal meals this Thursday, November 28, at various times of the day. Go to one, go to all, but don't stay home alone this season.

• Tenderloin Tessie's annual Thanksgiving dinner takes place at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin Street (between Geary and O'Farrell), from 1-4 p.m. Hungry guests will receive an admittance pass once they get in line, and because of limited space, will be served in rotational shifts.

Volunteers are always welcome. Shifts include kitchen and set-up on Wednesday, November 24, from 4-7 p.m.; dining room from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day; and cleanup from 4-6 p.m. right after everyone has been served.

For more information, or to donate time or food, call (415) 922-0422.

• Glide Memorial Church will be taking on more clients this year, as it has been designated to absorb people with HIV/AIDS who no longer have the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Thanksgiving dinner as an option. (SFAF canceled its dinner this year due to budget and staff cutbacks.) Glide's dinner is at 330 Ellis Street from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Breakfast is from 7:00-8:30 a.m. Guests will receive admittance passes once in line. For more information, call (415) 674-6030.

• The St. Anthony Foundation Dining Room at 45 Jones Street will serve dinner from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Those in need of a meal should simply show up. For more information, call (415) 241-2600.

• The Haight Ashbury Food Program will offer dinner at 1525 Waller Street from noon until 3 p.m. Guests should simply show up. For more information, or to find out about volunteering opportunities, call (415) 566-0366.

• Metropolitan Community Church will serve Thanksgiving dinner at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th Street, from noon until 2 p.m. Call (415) 863-4434 for more information on donations, volunteering, and attending this annual celebration.

• Project Open Hand, an organization for those with HIV/AIDS or other illnesses that leave people homebound, is expecting a full client load this Thanksgiving. While dinner is available only to clients, volunteering opportunities may still be available to those who complete an orientation; call (415) 447-2300. ▼



Jane Philmont Cleveland

Dennis McMillan, left, and rainbow flag creator Gilbert Baker were two of the nearly 100 participants in the 24th annual Harvey Milk March on Monday evening, November 25, which took place shortly after the lighting ceremony for the annual holiday tree in the Castro.

Community remembers Harvey Milk at annual march

by Matthew S. Bajko

Commemorating the 24th anniversary of one of San Francisco's darkest moments, nearly 100 people marched along Castro Street Monday, November 25 to remember Harvey Milk, the city's first openly gay supervisor.

Milk was gunned down in City Hall, along with then-Mayor George Moscone, on November 27, 1978 by Dan White, a former supervisor. Since then, Milk and his legacy have had a lasting effect on many queer residents in San Francisco and throughout the nation.

Each November the community celebrates Milk's accomplishments and spirit with the yearly march and candlelight vigil. Despite the dwindling number of people who participate, prompting this year's decision not to march to City Hall and instead remain in the Castro, the event helps keep Milk's spirit alive.

"Every time I march in this parade, it brings back memories of 24 years ago of walking with thousands," said Joey Cain, president of San Francisco's Pride Committee, who announced at the march that Milk's famous line "You've gotta give them hope" is next year's Pride theme. "Harvey knew the gay community had a special responsibility to provide that hope, and provide it we do."

Those who knew Milk, and those who wanted to honor his memory, slowly walked up Castro Street after gathering in front of 575 Castro, the site of Milk's former camera shop, a hotbed of political activism back in the 1970s. The procession ended in front of the

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Bay Area commemorates World AIDS Day

by Matthew S. Bajko

People the world over will take time on Sunday, December 1 to remember those who have died of AIDS as the international community marks the 14th observance of World AIDS Day.

This year's theme of stigma and discrimination aims to focus attention on the fears and paranoia that continue to surround the deadly disease more than two decades after it was first discovered.

And the battle to stop the devastation caused by AIDS on every continent of the planet has only just begun. By the end of 2001 an estimated 40 million people were living with HIV. An additional 5 million new infections are predicted by the end of 2002.

World AIDS Day emerged from the call by the World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention in January 1988 to open channels of communication, strengthen the exchange of information and experience, and forge a spirit of social tolerance. Since then, World AIDS Day has received the support of the World Health Assembly, the United Nations system, and gov-

ernments, communities, and individuals around the world. Each year, it is the only international day of coordinated action against AIDS.

This year, Bay Area residents will take to the streets to hold candlelight vigils, attend concerts and prayer services, listen to those impacted by AIDS discuss their experiences, and collect pennies to help in the fight against the disease and reflect on those who have been lost to the epidemic.

"With grim reports about the worsening epidemic from every continent, we solemnly remember on this World AIDS Day those who have already succumbed to this dreadful disease and we find solace and hope in our unwavering determination to prevail in the war against HIV/AIDS," said Dr. Tom Coates, University of California, San Francisco professor of medicine and director of the UCSF AIDS Research Institute.

'Concert of Hope'

The Interfaith Council of the UCSF AIDS Research Institute is sponsoring a concert of remembrance and hope in order to mark World AIDS Day. The concert will feature a

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49er Hearst apologizes for anti-gay slur

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco 49ers star running back Garrison Hearst apologized Friday, November 22 for anti-gay slurs he made several weeks ago to a sports columnist for the *Fresno Bee*.

"Aww, hell no! I don't want any faggots on my team," Hearst told *Bee* columnist Milo F. Bryant on October 27, following the 49ers' victory over the Arizona Cardinals. "I know this might not be what people want to hear, but that's a punk. I don't want any faggots in this locker room."

Bryant's column was published November 1. Hearst made the comments in response to hearing former NFL player Esera Tuaolo, was coming out of the closet. Tuaolo came out last month in an interview in the *New York Times* and on HBO's *Real Sports*.

Hearst's formal apology came in a brief appearance at the team's headquarters in Santa Clara, shortly after team owners issued a statement in which they called Hearst's comments "inappropriate" and "hurtful" to the gay and lesbian community, fans, the city, and the National Football League.

Initially, coach Steve Mariucci and general manager Terry Donahue tried to distance themselves from Hearst's comments. But after the story was given prominent attention in local media outlets, Hearst was trotted out at a hastily arranged news conference and apologized.

"First of all, I want to apologize for the comments that I made, and to the gay community. I didn't realize they would be so harmful. Being an African American, I know that discrimination is wrong and I was wrong for saying what I said about anybody – any race, any religion," Hearst said. "I want to apologize to the San Francisco 49ers organization, the City of San Francisco for the comments that I made, and to my teammates for bringing this distraction upon us. I hope that everyone can accept my apology."

Denise DeBartolo York, the owner of the 49ers, and her husband, Dr. John York, issued a strongly worded statement condemning Hearst's comments just before he apologized at the news conference. Reportedly, John York had a 20-minute phone call with Hearst, which he alluded to in the statement.

"I have spoken to Garrison about his comments and to educate him on the hurtful effect they have had on so many people," John York stated. "The 49ers and I are supportive of Garrison as a person and have talked with him today about discrimination, including the terrible history of discrimination against African Americans, as well as sensitivity and tolerance."

At Friday's news conference, Mariucci also apologized for not addressing the matter sooner.

"As a coach, as a teacher, as a father, I have a strong belief in tolerance, in equality, in civil rights, equal opportunity, and I hope that's reflected in the way I live my life," he said. "There's no place in this organization, on this team, or in this whole society for that matter, there's no place for discrimination of any sort."

"I give Garrison credit for



49ers star Garrison Hearst

necessary and appropriate to physically harm members of our community.

"Perhaps they should sit down and speak with the parents of Matthew Shepard and Eddie 'Gwen' Araujo to find out what it feels like to lose a child simply because they were different," Kennedy added.

Shepard was murdered because he was gay; Araujo allegedly was murdered because s/he was transgender.

The shock of Hearst's statements was no less upsetting for members of the San Francisco Shockwaves, a group of gay, lesbian, and gay-friendly flag football players who scrimmage regularly at Dolores Park and occasionally at Ocean Beach.

"We were surprised that Garrison would make those comments, considering the city in which he plays," said John McGill, SF Shockwaves organizer. "We also thought his apology was lame. I also read where the 49ers organization said that it doesn't get involved in political issues. My issue is that I don't need a football team to endorse sexuality but someone like Garrison Hearst shouldn't use his football status to demean sexuality – that is harmful and the 49ers should recognize that."

"To me, their biggest impact is on college and high school football students – the ones who need to hear more positive messages about dealing with others," McGill added.

"Garrison Hearst's statements really broke my heart since I'm such a huge 49er fan," said Darrell Bayani, another Shockwaves player. "I really looked up to him when I used to play tailback in school and he was the tailback for the University of Georgia. It's disheartening that there are still a lot of bigots and homophobes in football, but it won't prevent me from playing the game I love. I'm not going to let someone's narrow-minded view of the world taint my passion for football."

Rebecca Prozan, an out lesbian member of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission, which owns Candlestick Park – home of the 49ers – and has jurisdiction over it, was dismayed over the whole incident.

"It concerns me," she told the B.A.R. "I don't want to see homophobia in San Francisco or anywhere else in the U.S., even in the sports arena."

Last week, the Human Rights Campaign sent a letter to NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue urging him to address the problem of homophobia in the league and to make clear that the NFL will not tolerate harassment and discrimination against gay players. It cited Tuaolo's coming out as highlighting the need for the league to take steps to deal with the issue and also noted Hearst's anti-gay slur.

Lori Jean, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, told the Associated Press that Hearst's apology was "too little, too late."

"I am sure that although Garrison Hearst doesn't know it, he is already playing with gay players in the NFL," she stated. ▼

Jim Provenzano contributed to this report.

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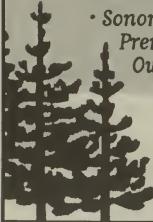
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There was no room in the inn for him either.

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Sitting pretty

AIDS bench gets a new home

by Zak Szymanski

This is the story of an historical figure that became down and out just as the economic boom was going bust, spent more than a year as a temp in a well-known employment office, and finally, just recently, seems to have found a permanent job. This could also be the story of an icon that was kidnapped, held hostage, and relocated without any input from its original guardians, depending upon whom is asked.

This is the story of the Names Project's commemorative bench, which sat for years outside 2362 Market Street to mark the original site of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in the Castro. Today, it sits shiny and protected inside what is now a popular new restaurant known as Catch. But it has been a long, strange trip for the bench, which went from being a landmark to a perceived community eyesore to a missing object seemingly overnight.

According to many neighborhood merchants, when the bench was outside, it had become a hang-out for the homeless, and when observing the bench's "desecration," as he put it, became too much for him, David Bach, owner of Bach Personnel at 2358 Market, swiped it and stored it in the back of his office.

"I will probably wait until I am comfortable that a proper home can be found before I turn it over," Bach told the *Bay Area Reporter* in July 2001, adding that he had tried for months to get the Names Project to take responsibility for the bench, to no avail.

But a month before Bach came clean as the seat-thief, the bench had been reported stolen by its appointed caretaker, Names Project volunteer Rick McCormack. McCormack had orchestrated the bench's original installation when the Names Project moved its offices from the Castro to SOMA in 1996, and considered himself the bench's guardian when the project moved its headquarters to Atlanta last year.

McCormack was unaware of the Names Project's disinterest in the bench, he said, probably in part because relations between McCormack and the project had become strained since he had



David Bach and the purloined bench in July 2001.

launched a campaign to try to stop the foundation from moving the quilt out of state. Therefore, McCormack assumed the bench was stolen when it went missing and several city departments claimed no responsibility. McCormack filed a police report on June 25, 2001. A tip called into the B.A.R. located the bench in Bach Personnel's backyard.

Public throne

Bach's bold move angered many local activists who saw it as an act of bigotry. Had anyone other than the homeless been using the bench, they said, it wouldn't have been an issue. Additionally, law enforcement did not press charges against Bach, leading many to cry double standard.

Bach clarified his position this week, telling the B.A.R. that it was not the homeless, but their subsequent waste that impeded upon the Castro's quality of life. His goal had always been to hold onto the bench until a business moved into the site, he said, and then work with the owner to ensure proper care and upkeep of the historical symbol.

And that, apparently, is what has happened, as the bench seems to be both safeguarded and serving a purpose at Catch restaurant.

"The bench is in safe hands now, and it also adds visibility to the restaurant, which the owner and I had discussed as part of the

plan to move it there," said Bach.

"Everybody's got a smile on their face. It brings back the presence of the history that was there, and it fits perfectly in that space," said Catch owner David Weiss, adding that because the bench has been there less than a week, it is too early to tell whether it has impacted his business.

Bach also ordered a plaque for the outside of the building, which permanently marks the original site of the quilt regardless of whatever happens to the bench in future years. The Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, he said, reimbursed him for the plaque purchase.

Notably absent from all the drama is the Names Project itself, which Bach said refused to participate in either the bench relocation efforts or the planning for the plaque. Bach said he contacted the headquarters in Atlanta several times, "and I haven't heard a word from them. Actually, the words I heard from them you can't put into writing."

Past tensions between the merchants and the quilt staff, and possible recent anger at Bach's bench theft, he speculated, could be behind the Names Project's refusal to help commemorate its original space.

Representatives from the Names Project did not return phone calls from the *Bay Area Reporter* seeking comment. ▼

Pride chooses Milk's words of 'hope' for next year's theme

by Zak Szymanski

Next year is an important anniversary for the LGBT movement, as it marks 25 years ago that gay activist and Supervisor Harvey Milk was assassinated at San Francisco's City Hall.

It is fitting, then, that next year's theme for the San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration is "You've gotta give them hope," one of Milk's more famous quotes that urged the community to keep fighting for equal rights.

"When someone gives their life for a movement, they need to be remembered and honored," said Pride President Joey Cain. "Har-

vey was about many things – two important ones were LGBT visibility and hope. These also happen to be two of the core reasons for the Pride celebration."

Coinciding with the anniversary of Milk's death are some other important 25-year anniversaries of groups that have had a strong presence in the Pride celebration, including the Women's Motorcycle Contingent ("Dykes on Bikes"), the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Band, and Theatre Rhinoceros. The rainbow flag will also be 25 years old next June.

"Harvey's words challenge us even now. He reminded us in 1978

that while we live in the relative freedom of San Francisco we owe it to our brothers and sisters around the world to keep fighting for equality and justice," said rainbow flag creator Gilbert Baker of the Pride theme. "The rainbow flag is a symbol of freedom that starts with visibility. Raising the flag is an action that proclaims power. I like to think that the flag is not about the cloth, but of the hope Harvey and our ancestors inspire."

Next year's Pride theme honors Milk and the many LGBT organizations with staying power, noted Pride organizers, and is also a call to action for queer San Francisco

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Supervisors fail to override nightclub veto

by Joe Dignan

San Francisco's Board of Supervisors failed Monday, November 25 to override Mayor Brown's veto of a bill by Supervisor Mark Leno that would have allowed 18 and over clubs to stay open past 2 a.m.

The legislation, which both sides of the controversy called minor, was elevated to the status of a test of wills between the board and the mayor when Brown announced his veto earlier this month.

Fifteen minutes before Mon-

day's board meeting, Supervisor Gavin Newsom told Leno that he would recuse himself from voting, citing potential conflicts of interest with bar and restaurant ventures in which Newsom said he is a partner. His withdrawal deprived Leno and his allies of the eight-vote margin needed to override the veto.

The final vote was 7-2, one vote shy of the two-thirds margin needed to overturn. Supervisors Sophie Maxwell and Leland Yee, who had opposed the legislation when it originally came before the board, also voted against the veto override.

Bowl for LGBT families next Saturday

by Zak Szymanski

You say you're uncoordinated, that you have two left feet, that you're allergic to any organized sport.

Nonsense, says the staff at Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere, who are holding the organization's seventh annual "Bowl-a-Thon" on Saturday, December 7, to raise money for continuing educational and social events to make the world better for LGBT families. The event is from 1-3 p.m. at Yerba Buena Bowling Center, 750 Folsom Street (between 3rd and 4th streets), in San Francisco.

The Bowl-a-Thon – unique in that it remains accessible to everyone who believes in the mission of COLAGE – works in one of two ways: participants can show up with at least \$20 in pledges and bowl for free, or they can attend without collecting pledges and bowl for a \$20 contribution. Prizes will be awarded to those with the highest amount in pledges, and a special prize will go to anyone who collects over \$100. Volunteers

and sponsors are always welcome as well, and the organization is also encouraging local companies and groups to form teams to participate.

"The past year has been a challenging time for both our community and the world at large. The current global climate demands that COLAGE continue to be a part of the struggle for a safe, just, and celebratory world for our families and all families," said Beth Teper, COLAGE's interim executive director. "Please join us with your participation and your support to continue this crucial work."

All Bowl-a-Thon proceeds will help to fund Bay Area family events, leadership and media trainings for teens, monthly programming for youth, and work-shops.

Pledge forms are available online at www.colage.org. Collected pledges should be brought to the event or mailed to the organization; all checks must be made out to COLAGE.

For more information, call (415) 861-5437, ext. 102, or e-mail meredith@colage.org. ▼

AEF honors heroes



The AIDS Emergency Fund celebrated its 20th anniversary at a gala event November 20 at the Veterans Building. The first AEF co-chairs Mister Marcus, left, and Sharon McNight, right, presented the Darrell Yee Community Service Award to San Francisco Police Officer Lenny Broberg, center. Others who were honored included Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Levi Strauss & Co., Peter Fiske, Neil Figuerelli, Daddy Alan Selby, Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt, the Pine Street Volunteers, James Scott Geras, and the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Foundation.



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Dirty tricks in District 8

What a difference a week makes. At the November 18 District 8 supervisorial debate, candidates Bevan Duffy and Eileen Hansen both vowed to run positive campaigns leading up to the December 1 runoff election.

"I have stayed positive throughout the campaign," Duffy told the crowd at the forum in Noe Valley.

"Certainly, we do not want to degenerate into personal attacks, but we can point out our differences. Those are facts," added candidate Hansen.

Now, the gloves are off in the Hansen camp, as supporters – particularly the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club – have bombarded the district with signs stating that Mayor Willie Brown endorses Duffy, and have unleashed a stealth campaign of anonymous fliers stating that Duffy "will help corporate America take over the Castro," and that he's part of the Brown machine.

Hansen is complicit in these dirty tricks, despite her claims of "plausible deniability." If her campaign didn't directly pay for the signs, the argument goes, she can claim she knows nothing about them. If Hansen were truly interested in running a "clean" campaign, and if the Milk Club were truly concerned about "clean" government, they wouldn't have resorted to such desperate tactics.

Debra Walker, the president of the Milk Club, maintains that the signs are not illegal, despite lacking information identifying the name of the political action committee that printed them. "We wanted 'paid for by the Harvey Milk PAC' on them," she told us, blaming the oversight on the printer. We checked with Cog's Signs, the Nevada City-based business that produced the signs. Employee Mandy Hummel confirmed the mistake, attributing it to a "clerical error." A complaint has been filed with the San Francisco Ethics Commission over the signs, though it remains unclear whether the Milk Club skirted the law. Walker said the club paid about \$3,600 for the signs.

The club took the action, Walker said, "because when I'm on the corner of 18th and Castro the question I always get is 'Who is the mayor supporting?'"

That seems to us a rather disingenuous ra-

tionale. Since he announced his candidacy months ago, Duffy has never hidden his past work with the Brown administration. The mayor was at Duffy's campaign kickoff and his election night party, and that was reported in this newspaper. The signs are not his and he resents the fact that Hansen supporters put them up in an apparent effort to cast Duffy in a negative light among potential voters who may not be supportive of the mayor. We have news for Hansen: people can vote for Duffy even if they don't like the mayor. Duffy has established that he is his own person; he has run his campaign on the issues and has pledged his independence on the board. We have endorsed Duffy and we don't agree with the mayor on a host of issues.

"This reflects on her and the campaign that runs around her," Duffy told us. "I intend to make it very clear to people that I have no knowledge of these signs. I have no

idea where they came from. I find this very offensive."

Clearly, it's a sign (no pun intended) that Hansen is worried about winning the runoff.

And she should be.

After all, despite the wide voter support for Proposition N, Care Not Cash, Hansen – who strongly opposes the plan – has wavered on how hard she would work to implement the will of the voters if she wins the race. While neither Hansen nor Duffy believes Proposition N will single-handedly solve the homeless problem, Duffy strongly supports the measure and will work actively to implement it if elected.

It's unfortunate that Hansen and her supporters have "gone negative." District 8 voters, however, are intelligent enough to see through these shenanigans, and they are the ones who ultimately will decide who represents them on the board. ▼

Editorial

WORLD AIDS DAY - DECEMBER 1, 2002

12 MILLION CHILDREN ORPHANED IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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Former candidate for Hansen

by Tom Radulovich

As a candidate for District 8 supervisor, I was proud to receive the Bay Area Reporter's endorsement in the November 5 election. I ran for supervisor to keep San Francisco a livable city – beautiful, vibrant, and affordable. In the December 1 runoff election, I strongly support Eileen Hansen for District 8's next supervisor. Hansen's solid history of advocacy on behalf of the community, her commitment to building consensus around workable solutions to often difficult issues, and her integrity will serve District 8 well. Many challenges face District 8 and the city – keeping our neighborhoods livable, protecting the environment, addressing homelessness, keeping housing affordable, cleaning up the corruption in city government, and maintaining services for city residents in an era of shrinking budgets. Hansen has raised these and other issues on her campaign; she will work hard for us as District 8 supervisor.

As a gay man, I appreciate and respect Hansen's more than 16 years of work on HIV/AIDS issues. The lesbian community has long been at our side throughout this ordeal, and Hansen was there at the beginning and remains so. As a former executive director of several AIDS organizations and most recently having served six years as the public policy director of the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, she built a solid reputation for her legislative and advocacy skills. Fearlessly resisting attempts to make gay men's HIV status reportable by name, she protected the privacy rights of people with HIV as one of the main architects of legislation creating a unique identifier reporting system. This legislation has now become law, is currently enjoying statewide implementation, and

serves as a model for the nation. An internationally recognized writer and speaker on HIV/AIDS (including at the International AIDS Conference in South Africa in 2000), Hansen has consistently fought at the local, state, and federal levels for increased funding and informed public policies. She was also founder of both the California HIV Advocacy Coalition and the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, along with numerous other organizations benefiting the LGBT, HIV, and progressive communities.

Hansen is better qualified to address the city's homelessness crisis, by effectively and humanely implementing Proposition N and maintaining the city's commitment to programs and policies that end homelessness. Strategies like supportive housing and substance abuse treatment on demand are universally recognized as effective solutions to homelessness, and are supported by all sides in the homeless debate, from Supervisor Newsom to the Coalition on Homelessness. These ideas and many others are included in the city's official "Continuum of Care" plan, a comprehensive blueprint for ending homelessness that Hansen supports, yet Mayor Brown has refused to implement. Hansen has long championed including housing and effective services to end homelessness in the city's budget, and increasing the accountability of city departments and homeless service providers. District 8 voters want to see a real change in city homeless policy, after seven years of ineffective action by the Brown administration. Hansen's opponent in District 8 was a senior official in the Brown administration for six years, leading a department that did little to remedy the

burgeoning crisis of homelessness in our neighborhoods.

Whether the issue has been HIV/AIDS, housing, zoning and planning, land-use development, or the city budget, Eileen Hansen has worked for more than 30 years in community-based organizations that advocate for the interests of ordinary people who don't have special connections. In contrast, her opponent has spent the last decade as a City Hall insider, and when he finally left City Hall and the Brown administration, he chose to

work as a City Hall lobbyist, attempting to replace a neighborhood theater with a chain store over neighborhood opposition.

On housing, Hansen wisely opposed Proposition R, the condo conversion/rent control repeal measure that was overwhelmingly rejected. Her opponent vigorously supported it. As a renter and an advocate for affordable housing and home ownership, Hansen will resist all attempts to repeal or weaken rent control and has creative ideas for making housing available and affordable such as community land trusts.

Under a community land trust model, tenants either rent or buy their units on a sliding scale based on income. Community land trusts have resulted in long-term affordable housing offering stability to renters and providing home ownership opportunities. Hansen will work to develop additional affordable housing opportunities in the district and throughout the city so that future generations of the LGBT community will not be priced out of San Francisco.

For these and many other reasons, it is clear that we need Eileen Hansen as our supervisor in District 8. Please join me in voting for Eileen Hansen on December 10. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

E-mail 49er Hearst

If you would like to let homophobic 49er Garrison Hearst know how you feel about his comments about gays go to SF49ers.com, click onto "Fan Zone" then click onto "e-mail a player." You might also want to know that by not disagreeing with him, both coach Steve Mariucci and general manager Terry Donahue are in agreement with him. Isn't it a sad state of affairs when Donahue says "we're too busy to be involved in a social issue?" Let's let them know that our community "isn't too busy."

Joe Mac
San Francisco

Apology insufficient

Garrison Hearst used the word "faggots" referring to gay people, yet his apology did not say anything about the slur he made. His apology was so general as to have said nothing. He, of course, recognizes the bigotry toward race and religion. Nothing was said about the "faggots" — there was no apology to the gay population. I feel that the San Francisco 49ers do not mean a bigot on its team. Mr. Hearst's slur is still relative and stands as such as far as I am concerned.

Andrew James
Oakland, California

2002 campaign just like 2000

Eileen Hansen and her unethical supporters must be frightened by Bevan Duffy's clean campaign. How else can she explain their frantic attempts to attack Duffy by linking him to Mayor Brown? It is clear that Hansen is still campaigning on the same anti-Willie Brown format that almost got her into office two years ago. Smart voters know that Mayor Brown is only in office for one more year and the new supervisor for District 8 will be in office for the next four years. This election has nothing to do with Willie Brown, but Hansen supporters would like you to think differently.

Bevan Duffy said he was not going to litter the neighborhood streets with campaign signs and he has kept that promise. If you look closely at the Duffy/Brown signs that were posted all over District 8 alongside the newly printed Hansen signs, you can see that signs were printed by the disrespectful Harvey Milk "Political" Club (they are not a true "Democratic" club so they should correct their name).

Hansen and her supporters don't want the voters to know that Hansen was on the wrong side of Proposition N, Care Not Cash, which passed overwhelmingly in District 8 and in the city as a whole. Bevan Duffy not only supported Proposition N, he will work with Gavin Newsom to implement it. Hansen will most likely block its implementation, regardless of what the electorate has mandated. Hansen may be a leader who listens, but she feels free to disregard what has been said if it conflicts with her own preconceived orthodoxies. In contrast, Bevan Duffy hears and understands the concerns of voters and knows how to address them. I've listened to what Hansen says. That's why I'm voting for Bevan Duffy on December 10.

Over the next couple of weeks, get ready for some more slimy, falsely degrading, and sleazy campaign tactics to come out of the Hansen camp. It will be an ugly display of campaigning that is bound to make your stomach sick as if you just drank a big tall glass of "Green Milk."

James "Jimmer" Cassiol
San Francisco

Wrong stance on Prop. R

In Wayne Friday's November 21 column, he stated that people should support Bevan Duffy because of his support for Care Not Cash. Using Friday's single issue rationale it would make more sense not to vote for Duffy because of his strong support for Proposition R, the conservative landlord initiative that would have ended rent control. Far more people in the city and particularly in District 8 voted against Proposition R then voted for Proposition N. If elected could we expect Duffy to continue his anti-rent control stance in spite of the overwhelming sentiments of his constituents? The mega landlords supporting Duffy hope so. That's why I support Eileen Hansen.

John Phillips
San Francisco

Glad Duffy's in runoff

I'm glad to see that Bevan Duffy has made the runoff in the race to become the next supervisor for District 8. Throughout, he has offered a thoughtful, positive, and inclusive message, never attacking his opponents, though the mud was flying in his direction.

I want to believe that elections can be won by candidates who are willing to take the high road. I also want to believe that a candidate who voluntarily agrees to limit the amount of individual contributions, while refusing to accept contributions from

PACs, lobbyists, businesses or anyone not living or working in San Francisco, can prevail. We can send a message on December 10 that it's a new day in politics. I hope that those who feel as I do will vote to make Bevan Duffy our next supervisor.

Julia Adams
San Francisco

A cold indentation

A few years back, the benches in Civic Center Plaza in front of City Hall were removed. I work with adults with developmental disabilities at a day program South of Market. Since Civic Center Plaza is the only park area near us, we liked to go for walks there. Many of the people I work with have mobility issues and the benches there would give us a nice break. When the benches were removed, I called the mayor's office. I spoke with Bevan Duffy. I asked him, "Where are the people with mobility issues and seniors supposed to sit now that the benches are gone?" His reply was for them to "sit in an indentation." I asked what he meant by that and he seemed to say they could sit around the concrete border of the grassy areas. I was flabbergasted, to say the least.

I still get upset every time I go through that park, knowing how a lot more people with disabilities and seniors would enjoy sitting in one of the few park areas near the Tenderloin and South of Market, but can't because there's nowhere accessible to sit. I'm supporting and volunteering for Eileen Hansen for District 8 supervisor because I'm confident she would have a much more realistic and pro-active solution that Duffy's. Hopefully, he can have a nice cold indentation to sit on to console himself after he loses the runoff December 10.

Gary Gregerson
San Francisco

Mailstrom



Former rival backs Duffy

I first want to thank the 485 voters in District 8 that voted for me. I appreciate it. It was an extremely challenging race because all of my competitors had something great to offer the District 8 voter. Starchild is a sincere advocate for the Libertarian point of view and certainly made some valid arguments regarding less intrusion of government equaling more personal freedom. James Green, a firefighter/paramedic over the past 25 years, brought a first-hand perspective to what it actually means to roll up your sleeves and interact daily with the drunk and/or mentally unstable homeless individuals currently living on the streets. Tom Radulovich is so articulate and policy-savvy that I hope he someday becomes the director of the Planning Department or the Department of Public Works where his skills can benefit all San Franciscans. Eileen Hansen is an incredibly compassionate person who cares deeply about the city and she would be an excellent tenant/nonprofit lobbyist.

Then there is Bevan Duffy with his 27-year background in working behind the scenes to get things done. He impressed me immediately as someone who has the hands-on, practical leadership that I admire and respect. Having observed him during every debate during this election cycle I feel strongly he will make an effective and dynamic supervisor for District 8 residents. As someone who lives in the district and cares about the quality of life, I knew that Proposition N (Care Not Cash) would be the defining issue. Eileen and Tom came out strongly against it. Bevan supported it and I know he will work with who I hope is the future mayor, Gavin Newsom, to get it implemented. Anyone who has had the opportunity to meet Bevan and personally speak to him knows that he has a vision for the district and the city that includes making it a much better place to live.

I have no doubt when he tells me he will work to open a district office or form a district-wide advisory board to seek input from community leaders. When he says he will work for both tenants and property owners I know he will do that. These are only a few of the reasons why I am supporting him in the runoff on December 10. I never thought I'd endorse anyone that Wayne Friday or the Bay Area Reporter endorsed, but I'm convinced that Bevan Duffy will get the job done at City Hall and I encourage District 8 voters to meet him before the election and make up your own mind. You can reach his campaign online at www.bevanduffy.com or call his campaign headquarters at 355-9888.

Shawn O'Hearn
San Francisco

Progressive for Hansen

Elections in the USA can be confusing. One thing to watch that makes it simpler is to see who supports the candidates. Eileen Hansen has a very long list of progressive organizations among her many endorsements: Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, Sierra Club, San Francisco Tomorrow, SF Bicycle Coalition, SF Green Party, American Federation of Teachers, Local 2121. These organizations share my hopes and

next page ►

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LETTERS

Mailstrom

◀ previous page

dreams for a better city. They are but a few of the long list of organizations that support Hansen that share my values. I believe they represent the values of the majority of us in District 8.

Dr. Maggi Rubenstein
San Francisco

Leadership that litters?

I am so tired of negative campaigning. I was shocked to see signs all over District 8, by an undisclosed independent expenditure, saying Willie Brown endorses Bevan Duffy. Furthermore, negative mail and abrasive phone calls from respected organizations like the Sierra Club and Harvey Milk Club distorting Bevan's record is shameless. Can Eileen Hansen's people say anything about what she's done or will do at the board?

The last straw came last weekend when I was trying to enjoy a Saturday in the Castro. Eileen's people were parading up and down, carrying signs saying that Bevan will sell out the Castro to corporate interests. I also noticed her people putting up these smear flyers on street corners and buses. This type of campaigning serves one purpose, which is to litter the Castro and reflect negatively back on her and her campaigning tactics. Maybe she should rename her campaign "Leadership that Litters" instead of "Leadership that Listens."

Rebecca Goldfader
San Francisco

Hansen's 'earned her place' on board

As a longtime resident of the Castro, I think it's important for us to elect a supervisor in the tradition of Harvey Milk and Harry Britt, who fought like hell for rights, rent control, and district election of supervisors.

Eileen Hansen has already built a reputation over the past 15 years as an untiring advocate on issues like HIV/AIDS and protecting local businesses from a chain store invasion. She has earned her place on the Board of Supervisors. That's why I'm voting for her in the District 8 runoff on December 10.

But there's another good reason to vote for Hansen: If she wins, the progressive majority on the Board of Supervisors can override Willie Brown's veto. If she loses, Brown gets his handpicked former "special assistant" on the board, and Brown's veto pen goes into hyperdrive. Don't let it happen. Vote Hansen.

David D. Schmidt
San Francisco

Endorsement is accurate

I would like to thank the B.A.R. for endorsing Bevan Duffy [*"Our choice in Dist. 8: Duffy," November 14*]. While Eileen Hansen may profess leadership that listens, she does not offer leadership that will act on the will of the people. Instead, she believes her ideas supersede the electorate. When asked directly if she endorsed the current board's attempt to thwart the TIC legislation that citizens of San Francisco overwhelmingly voted for, she said she approved of the board's actions to dismiss that vote. She further went on to say that if voters voted for a measure that she did not think was "good policy" that she would work against the measure. Those issues include Hansen's position on homelessness (she opposed Proposition N).

As a journalistic observer of what goes on in District 8, the B.A.R.'s opinion is not only informed, but accurate. The B.A.R. has documented Duffy's work while Hansen — who claims to be the "people's choice" — can offer only talk, talk, talk, and a promise to ignore voters in the end. Bevan Duffy not only listens, but hears, understands, and gets things done.

Pauline Shaver
San Francisco

Not surprised at Army's actions

As a gay person who was taught a Slavic language at the Army's Monterey Language School almost 40 years ago and who was honorably discharged after serving out his enlistment, I find it distressing, but not surprising, that Congress' continuing ban on military service by open homosexuals would likely disqualify this country from membership in the European Union.

Reid Condit
San Francisco

District 8 runoff

It's clear that the District 8 runoff between Eileen Hansen and Bevan Duffy has become a citywide race. While Hansen's opponent is committed to the economic stability and development of San Francisco, Hansen's focus is on the well-being of the people she represents. I'm not implying that working toward a strong economic infrastructure isn't important, it just

shouldn't be done at the expense of the quality of life facing San Francisco residents. Some folks may not agree with Hansen's position on U.S. international conflict. That's fine — folks can agree to disagree on certain issues. However, keep in mind that the role of a supervisor is to listen to and address the needs of his/her constituents. Eileen Hansen is a humanitarian, advocating for GLBTQ rights, affordable housing, healthcare, women's rights, homelessness, HIV/AIDS, and many other issues. What San Francisco needs are politicians who will prioritize these important issues. Vote for Eileen Hansen on December 10.

Kody Hilton
San Francisco

Does anyone care?

Can you stand another letter about Halloween in the Castro? I cannot for the life of me understand why someone hasn't got their shit together and solved the real-life horrors of what used to be a great night in the neighborhood. Willie Brown, do you care? All these organizations that make the rest of the year wonderful in the city — do you care?

Well, you better. Halloween comes on a Friday next year. And you know what that means.

Ronald Sapp
Dover, Delaware

Loves Steamworks

I must take issue with Charlie Hinton's letter concerning his unhappiness with Steamworks [*Mailstrom, November 7*]. My partner and I have been going to Steamworks for many years. We have always enjoyed the fact that it is extremely clean compared to most of the sex clubs in San Francisco. With the sex clubs here in San Francisco (Eros being the exception) you can only wash up in a sink, ventilation is poor and one can step in spit/cum that has been laying on the floor for who knows how long. And the cost to visit most of these clubs is more expensive.

The employees at Steamworks are always friendly and constantly cleaning the private rooms, bathrooms, steam room, and sauna. The steam room has always been cleaned during our visits and we have never smelled any heavy use of cleansers or "shit," as Mr. Hinton so rudely puts it. As far as the sauna being torn down ... that happened about five years ago. The Jacuzzi is now recessed into the floor (and has been for the last few years), is much bigger and it too is kept extremely clean.

Steamworks has added a few extra rooms, some with televisions to watch adult movies. If Mr. Hinton wants to see *Will & Grace*-type shows, then he should settle for a room without a TV, sit in the TV lounge, or stay home. The other features which have been added is a new locker room area, vending machine area for snacks and sodas, a new and better work-out area as well as a spacious cruising area.

What Mr. Hinton considers "steep prices" are not steep to others for what Steamworks offers to its customers. A nominal membership fee, inexpensive prices for either a locker or room, and a reasonable time limit (that you can renew) fits quite well with Steamworks. All of this new construction and providing satisfaction to customers doesn't come for free. Cost of renovations has to be passed on to customers to provide a safe, clean, and sexually fun environment.

I think Mr. Hinton's anger would be better served by addressing his frustration to Dr. Mitch Katz (a gay man) and Dr. Jeff Klausner, both of the San Francisco Department of Health, and to the Board of Supervisors concerning the lack of men's saunas in San Francisco. There is absolutely no reason why we can not have them here. Especially when other metropolitan areas (as well as smaller towns) have at least three men's saunas with no problems. The difficulty is trying to wrest control of the monopoly formed by sex club owners and management in San Francisco who are against having men's saunas because it would take away from their "sex club" businesses.

Note: Contrary to popular belief put out by the SFDPH, there has never been a study proving the increase of the spread of AIDS because of a men's sauna with private rooms.

In conclusion, I would like to suggest to Mr. Hinton that if he doesn't like what he thinks he sees (or smells) then he should not patronize Steamworks in the future. Because those of us who enjoy this wonderful space are very satisfied with what we see, do and smell. And we don't mind paying to get these services.

Steven D. Keller
San Francisco

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Nancy Pelosi now a top Democratic leader

by Wayne Friday

Hundreds of Representative Nancy Pelosi's (D-San Francisco) hometown friends and supporters from across the state honored the new Democratic Party leader in San Francisco last Saturday in celebration of her recent elevation to Democratic House minority leader.

Since her election to the leadership post earlier this month, political writers and news organizations across the country have been taking a closer look at the woman Republicans quickly tagged as a "quirky San Francisco liberal," who, the GOP points out, votes for such liberal causes as partial birth abortion and gay rights issues while voting against GOP priorities such as welfare reform and George Bush's war in Iraq.

Republicans might be putting the political cart before the horse in labeling Nancy Pelosi as little more than an attractive, stylish, liberal political climber. As Pelosi said in a recent *Washington Post* interview, she sees her new job as one in which to rally the troops, have the knowledge to make the right judgments, have a good plan for the Democratic Party, and to "make it all happen for the good of the government – and the party."

Those who know Pelosi best, however, say there are two sides – two very bright and distinct sides – to the woman. While Pelosi freely admits to being a good liberal who supports left of center causes and rarely misses a gay Pride Parade in her home district, she is also known as a very savvy political tactician. Pelosi, though a lifelong Democrat, only went into elective politics after she had raised her five children and worked her way up through the party machinery to eventually become California state Democratic chair.

She has represented her district for the past 15 years and even those who originally opposed her in a bitter primary contest in her first run against then-Supervisor Harry Britt, now for the most part seem to agree that her election was certainly the best choice in the end. Pelosi, since going to Washington, has worked her way up the House leadership ladder as well; she is a woman who raises and doles out more money than any other House member on behalf of her fellow Democrats, can quickly foresee how a particular vote on the House floor is headed, and can whip needed votes with political steel and cunning.

Pelosi will tell you that she grew up as the only daughter of an old-fashioned urban political ward boss (who served several terms as mayor of Baltimore) and never forgot what her father once told her: that successful politics is a matter of winning votes, not spinning philosophies.

So, is Pelosi really smart and tough enough – liberal though she is – to help put her party back on a winning track? I'm betting she's exactly the person for the job. One day last week the new Democratic leader-to-be ran into Republican Representative Tom DeLay (Texas) and House Speaker Den-



Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi

Nils Haster (Illinois), and as the *Post* said: "Things are liable to get pretty mean between them. The GOP mass mailers are no doubt already at work on the first fundraising letters decrying 'the San Francisco liberal,' just as Nancy Pelosi's side has been using DeLay as a fundraising bogeyman for the past year. For the moment, however, they're not ideologues; they were fellow practitioners of the fine art of politics. And so, the two conservative Republicans took turns wrapping the liberal Democrat in bear hugs."

Politics and people

Correction: Last week this column reported that San Diego County District Attorney-elect **Bonnie Dumanis**, the woman who ousted two-term incumbent **Paul Pfingst**, a Republican, was not only a lesbian, but a Democrat. Wrong – about the party affiliation, that is. Lesbian? Yes. Democrat? No. I honestly believe I received an e-mail or phone call from every gay or lesbian Republican in San Francisco, quickly pointing out Dumanis's party affiliation. Again, congratulations to Bonnie Dumanis, the lesbian Republican district attorney-elect of San Diego County.

In Louisiana, the final U.S. Senate seat in the national election will be settled on December 7 when incumbent Democratic Senator **Mary Landrieu** defends her seat against GOP challenger **Suzanne Terrell**; both parties are spending millions in the runoff that was made necessary because under state law there, though Landrieu led the eight-person field of candidates, she fell short of the necessary 50 percent plus one needed, forcing a runoff. Landrieu is a slight favorite to win on December 7 despite **George W. Bush**'s announced plan to spend the last three days before the runoff election stumping in Louisiana for Terrell. Republicans are assured of 51 Senate seats when the new Congress convenes in January and the Democrats 47, plus the support of a 48th, who is an independent.

Most, if not all, of the top political prognosticators would probably agree that Supervisor **Gavin Newsom**, with his re-election landslide in District 2 and his huge win with Proposition N, is the really big local election winner from the November 5 election; his

campaign for mayor in 2003 is off to a very strong head start. Others announced or expected to run for mayor race next year include Treasurer **Susan Leal**, Supervisors Ammiano and **Tony Hall**, former Supervisor **Angela Alioto**, and former Police Chief **Tony Riba**, but the early money on this one has to be on Newsom as the likely person to replace Mayor Brown.

In San Francisco's December 10 District 8 supervisorial runoff, supporters of the **Eileen Hansen** campaign are plastering the district with signs and have mailed hit pieces trying desperately to link **Bevan Dufty** to the lame-



District 8 candidate Bevan Dufty

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Where we're not supposed to be

by Dale Carpenter

Gays are not supposed to be religious. We are not supposed to join the military. We're not supposed to be Republicans. And we most definitely are not supposed to play professional football.

The latest upsetting of the apple-cart comes from Esera Tuaolo, who played for nine years as a defensive lineman in the National Football League before he retired in 1999. The 34-year-old Tuaolo recently came out on the HBO program, *Real Sports*. The interview, and the reaction to it from other players and football coaches, reveal just how touchy the subject is in the traditional macho world of professional sports.

Tuaolo stayed deep in the closet during his career, fearing that if his homosexuality became known he would be cut from his team or be the target of ridicule and disrespect from his teammates off the field and cheap-shot hits from opposing players on the field.

"They didn't know who Esera Tuaolo is," he said in the interview. "What they saw was an actor." Tuaolo says that he quietly endured numerous anti-gay jokes in the locker-room during his tenure in the NFL, even laughing along to keep up his cover.

"They made me go further and further into depression, further and further into shame," he said. He often drank himself to sleep, hoping he wouldn't wake up. It got so bad he considered suicide. "When I'm driving like over a 100 [mph], maybe I could just like turn that wheel, just turn that wheel so I could just end it all," said Tuaolo.

Most disturbing are the effects all of this fear had on Tuaolo's personal and professional life. He had friends in football, but kept them at a distance, never revealing his true self. He also denied himself a relationship with another

man until late in his career, worrying that otherwise his secret would be hard to keep.

The need to hide also led Tuaolo to underperform for fear that excelling would draw unwanted media attention to his personal life. "I was always anxious, always in pain," he told the *New York Times*. "I was afraid if I was too much of a star I'd be exposed. ... At Oregon State [where he played college football], I didn't want

to be captain; I didn't want to be on the posters. When I was, I got scared."

Rarely have the personal and social costs of the closet been more vividly on display than in the case of this football player.

Green Bay wide receiver Sterling Sharpe, a teammate of Tuaolo's when he played for the Packers, confirmed the wisdom of Tuaolo's decision to stay in the closet. "He would have been eaten alive and he would have been hated for it," Sharpe told *Real Sports*.

Rice college football coach Ken Hatfield told one reporter he would think hard about kicking an openly gay player off his team. If a player came out to him, he said he would ask the player: "What happened? What changed since we recruited you? When did this come about?" People choose homosexuality, Hatfield said, just as they choose whether to drink or go to church.

To the surprise of everyone, it was a player for the San Francisco 49ers, running back Garrison Hearst, who had the most virulently homophobic reaction to the idea of an openly gay teammate. "Aww, hell no! I don't want any faggots on my team," he told a Fresno newspaper. Hearst subsequently apologized for his comments, as did 49ers management, though a bit belatedly.

With attitudes and widespread ignorance like this on open display, it's no wonder there isn't a single openly gay pro football player. In fact, there hasn't been

one in the 100 year-history of the professional league. Nor are there any openly gay players in pro baseball, basketball, or hockey. Gays have triumphantly entered just about every realm of American life – from politics to TV to law to journalism – except professional sports. The absence of openly gay players keeps alive the stereotype of gay men as sissies too soft to take the physical punishment and competitive atmosphere that suffuse sports.

Aside from visceral homophobia and outright ignorance, there are legitimate questions of sexual privacy involved in mixing gay and straight players in the intimate environs of the locker-room. "As a football player, you're not in an office with cubicles," Jacksonville Jaguars tight end Kyle Brady told one newspaper. "People are taking showers together, and there are training room situations where people are not altogether clothed. Would guys feel comfortable in that circumstance with someone who they know is homosexual? I believe I could, but certain situations could be a bit difficult."

The same sexual privacy issues arise in the military which, unlike professional sports, officially bars openly gay people. But the solution, in the locker room as in the barracks, is not to pretend gays are absent or to expel anyone honest about his homosexuality.

Gays have always played sports, just as we've always served in the military. There's no policy that's going to keep us completely out of either environment, so the only sensible route is to accept that fact, appreciate the contributions we make to the success of the team (or unit), and punish inappropriate behavior when it occurs.

As a sports fan, I want my teams to field the best players and to get the most out of those players. It's obvious that's not happening now, which is a loss for all of us. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

roll out the president one time a day. One exposure to all of you (the media). No big in-depth inquiries. Put him in his brown jacket and his blue jeans, put him on a ranch, let him cock his head, give you a smile, and it looks like America's OK." Hell, Kerry sounds pretty smart to me – maybe the Democrats really should nominate him in 2004.

And if you are a political junkie, you've gotta love **James Carville** – sure Carville is angry

the Democrats lost the midterm elections, but he isn't actually all that sad it happened. "An ass-whipping is a good teacher," he said. Carville said the Democrats got what they deserved by offering few programs and cowering when they should have challenged the GOP on the anti-terror war. Carville added that Democrats "get squirmy and exude weakness" on war issues, but says the Democrats will be back in 2004 with a good candidate that can win for the party.

Finally, my "Quote of the Week" from Representative Nancy Pelosi, brushing aside criticism of

the Republicans of who she is and where she comes from. Pelosi: "When people say 'San Francisco liberal,' are they talking about protecting the environment, educating the American children, building economic success?" she asks rhetorically. "No, they are talking about gay people. Well I was brought up to believe that all people are God's children, and the last time I looked that included gay people."

And how was your week? ▼

Got a political tip? E-mail WayneFridaySF@aol.com.

Eileen Hansen

◀ page 3

was diffused through her facilitation."

Yet Haaland admitted if anyone was instrumental in brokering an agreement on the shelter it would be Avicoli Mecca.

"I will be honest with you, if there was anyone who was at the

core of everything that happened it was Tommi," he said.

And Jim Mitulski, the former pastor of MCC who oversaw the winter shelter programs for queer youth, added while he does not doubt Hansen supported the shelter, he does not recall her playing a key role in the controversial project.

"If I was working on a history of the queer shelter, I would say

the heroes of it were Supervisor Mark Leno, Tommi Avicoli Mecca, Mitch Thompson at the Rec Center, Eric Politzer and Yvette Flunder at Ark of Refuge, and all the people from MCC who supported it even when it wasn't popular," said Mitulski. "That isn't to be construed to mean Eileen wasn't involved. I am just literally saying I don't remember the nature of her involvement." ▼

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Fear, change, politics, and power

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

People are genuinely afraid of the transgendered.

This is not a new revelation: certainly, anyone with a "Transsexual Menace" T-shirt in their drawer is well aware of this concept. This fear just became more tangible during this last election.

Take for example the efforts of an acronym-challenged organization called the "Ypsilanti Citizens Voting YES For Equal Rights Not Special Rights." Just from the name you can guess that members are not likely going to be the folks you'll want to have over for coffee and a danish.

The members of the YCVYFERSR were formed to repeal an equal rights ordinance in the 23,000-person strong town of Ypsilanti, Michigan. The bill has been in place since 1997, and has been a rallying cry for conservatives from Ex-Green Bay Packer Reggie White and Ex-Domino's Pizza CEO Tom Monaghan.

Certainly, "concerned citizen" groups fighting against GLBT rights ordinances is nothing new, but one of the attacks they employed was a new – but not very refreshing – take on an old tactic.

A mailer was sent out to members of the local community, picturing a transgendered woman. What's the headline? "Will you vote YES to protect your daughter ... your granddaughter ... from being forced to use the girl's bathroom with men like this?"

Aside from the fact that the current Ypsilanti ordinance includes a clear exception to bathroom use, thereby making the claim a fallacy, the fact that the group had to use such a claim simply draws attention to how afraid members really are of transgendered people. It's not like it was a photo of a mutant Himalayan snowman or knife-wielding maniac, let alone a knife-wielding yeti.

The YCVYFERSR lost on its bid to void the rights ordinance in Ypsilanti, by the way. At least the good folks of this bedroom community had the decency to see through this argument. Yet Ypsilanti is not the only city grappling with the issue.

In Eugene, Oregon, a new law allows gay and lesbian individuals to register as domestic partners. A symbolic gesture, as there is no true legal authority behind this in Eugene. The mayor of Eugene, Jim Torrey, threatened to veto this



token legislation if protections for transgendered people was not struck from the bill. You guessed it, the protections were tossed out by the City Council. This sounds vaguely reminiscent of the argument over the Employment Non-Discrimination Act on Capitol Hill, does it not?

Indeed, when one starts to take a good long look at this, there have been any number of cases where some creeping fear of transgendered people has driven our society. I won't bore you with a list. Instead, I'll ask a simple question.

Just what, exactly, are people afraid of?

Maybe it is simply that they don't understand transgendered people. They haven't taken the time to learn about such things, or have never – that they are aware of – met a transgendered person. If it is as simple as that, then there is a simple solution: education.

They can go to sensitivity classes, or attend trans lectures, or even just take a moment to pick up a book or two at their local bookstore or library. It's all very easy. Why, I'll even talk with them for free, but only for a little while.

Certainly, we've seen how a change in understanding and education can affect people in any number of similar situations, whether it be in the rights struggles involving race, or religion, or sexual orientation, for example. There is a clear precedent.

I think it might be more than a simple lack of understanding, however, that is fueling their fear. Maybe it is because they understand us all to well.

We represent possibility. There are few absolutes that are taken more seriously than that of one's own gender. It's the first thing assigned to us at birth, and is one of the first assumptions anyone will

make of us throughout our life.

We cross these lines, and show that one is not bound by gender. We do it out of a sense of necessity, a longing that few non-transgendered people may be able to fully grasp.

For someone who has been taught all their life that gender is an absolute, and may have spent years trying to learn the roles of their gender, the concept that one can not only change genders, but may even be able to be a little fluid in their presentation, can be scary. It opens up possibilities never considered.

One need not be the muscle-bound bodybuilder, or the rugged outdoorsman. Nor does one have to emulate Donna Reed or Pamela Anderson. One can pick a little from both, or pass on them altogether. Yes, one can even remain in one of those stereotypes if they wish, but can do so out of choice.

That last word, choice, is the biggie. Now I know that I am treading on thin ice here. I know that my own transition was hardly a thing I would call a choice. If it was, I would have rather done many other things than choose to be transgendered.

In spite of that, we still do represent a choice. We opted to do something about who we are, rather than continue to fight against it. As if that were a real possibility.

Maybe that is what the real unknown is. Not that there is a lack of knowledge about transgendered people, but that there is a lack of real understanding around the nature of gender, and the fact that one is not stuck with one set of expectations in their life.

Perhaps this is what a group in Michigan are truly worried about, let alone the mayor of Eugene. ▼

Gwen Smith always welcomes change, especially when found in the couch cushions. She can be found on the Web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at www.gwensmith.com.

Remembering the fallen



Marsha Lowry was one of more than 200 people who participated in the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance held November 20 in San Francisco. The vigil along Market Street was held to call attention to the 24 transgender people who have been murdered so far this year. The event, organized by transgender activist Gwen Smith, grew out of a Web site she started several years ago to document transgender murders. For more information, visit www.rememberingourdead.org.

GRGR West makes donations



Members of Gay Rights Grass Roots West were joined by representatives of Continuum and the California Alliance for Pride and Equality on November 20 at the Edge bar as the organization distributed proceeds from its "Real Bad" party that took place following the Folsom Street Fair. The two community groups split the \$70,000 raised at the party.

What second date?

by Jane Warner

Beck's Motor Lodge, 2222 Market, Nov. 24, 5:06 a.m.: A man met another man at a party and invited him back to his motel room. After engaging in consensual sex, the man went to the bathroom, leaving his jeans on the back of a chair. While he was in the bathroom, his friend told him he was going outside for a cigarette. The man came out of the bathroom and waited for his friend to return. After about 20 minutes, he put on his jeans to go look for him, and noticed his wallet was in his front pocket instead of his back pocket, where he kept it. Suspicious, he checked its contents and noticed \$100 missing. The man searched the grounds, but his date was nowhere to be found. Described as African American, 5 feet 10 inches, 160 pounds, the suspect said his name was "Ilan."

Washed up

16th and Noe, Nov. 18, 6:47 p.m.: A man driving on Church Street in his SUV was stopped at a traffic light when a motorcycle

pulled up alongside him. "You got me wet motherfucker," the biker yelled. The man, realizing he had previously used his washer fluid and must have inadvertently sprayed the biker, apologized and continued on his way. The driver of the motorcycle became enraged and drove in front of the SUV, slamming on his brake several times. The man tried to go in another direction, but the motorcycle continued to follow him in a reckless manner. As they neared 16th and Noe, the driver of the motorcycle threw a rock at the rear of the SUV, shattering the window. The driver of the SUV pulled over, but the suspect – described as a white male, with long black curly hair sticking out of a white helmet – continued riding southbound on Noe Street. Responding police officers searched the area, but were unable to find him.

Slow getaway

Castro and Market, Nov. 24, 12:36 a.m.: A cab driver picked up

two men on the corner of 18th and Mission who requested a ride to a motel on Market Street. As the cab driver drove east on Market, the men changed their minds and told him to keep going. As they approached Castro Street, one of the men told the cabby to let them off on the corner, telling him, "We don't have any money." The driver stopped the cab, got out, and went around to the passenger side, attempting to collect the fare before his passengers could run. One of the men, however, ran around the cab and got into the driver's seat. The suspect turned the key in the ignition, but the car would not start. The cabby called 911 on his cell phone while his passengers refused to leave, telling him, "Go ahead, call the police." Officers soon arrived and took the two men into custody. The alleged fare jumpers, ages 38 and 35, were taken to Mission Station and booked for public intoxication and attempting to steal a vehicle. ▼

the driver's seat. The suspect turned the key in the ignition, but the car would not start. The cabby called 911 on his cell phone while his passengers refused to leave, telling him, "Go ahead, call the police." Officers soon arrived and took the two men into custody. The alleged fare jumpers, ages 38 and 35, were taken to Mission Station and booked for public intoxication and attempting to steal a vehicle. ▼

Nightclub veto

◀ page 5

Supervisor Chris Daly was even more outspoken, calling Newsom's move "disgusting." Daly speculated that Brown had put Newsom up to his last-minute switch.

For his part, a very angry Newsom denied Daly's charge. "I never got a call, as God is my witness," Newsom said after the vote.

The defeat happened on Leno's last day as a San Francisco supervisor. Both he and Yee were elected to the California Assembly in this month's general election and will leave the board as of Monday.

Ironically, in a farewell speech earlier in the meeting, Leno said he was very grateful to Brown for initially appointing him to the board in 1998, and presaging the upcoming tiff, added that "when you need a vote, it often comes down to personal relationships."

Newsom announced last week that he will run for mayor next year.

The legislation itself was nearly lost in the smoke of battle between the board and the mayor. It would have allowed clubs that serve food and liquor, and also

have a city-issued place of entertainment permit, to apply to the city's bureaucracy to stay open after 2 a.m. The bill was expected to have very limited effect, as, at the moment, only one venue, City Nights, meets the criteria.

Leno's arguments for the legislation itself were that it might have provided San Francisco youth with safe places to go after hours.

"We need to recognize that there are many 18- to 21-year-olds looking for an entertainment venue after 2 a.m.," Leno said. "If we don't provide it, they'll find it elsewhere. That means driving to other parts of the Bay Area or going to underground parties where there's no concern for health issues."

Even so, Newsom's move angered late night advocates. Liam Shy, 18, a member of San Francisco's Late Night Coalition, said that Newsom's move meant, to him, that youth are not capable of making such decisions on their own.

"I'm angry about that," Shy said. "We could be in a sex club all night long."

Both candidates running for Leno's seat weighed in on the issue.

Bevan Duffy, whose opponents have accused him of complicity with the mayor because he served as Brown's director of neighborhood services, said that he would have voted to oppose the mayor on this issue.

"I absolutely support the override of the veto," Duffy said. "Once you're 18, you're eligible to vote, to serve in the military, and to donate an organ. It seems to me you ought to be able to decide if you can go out, meet friends and dance after 2 a.m."

Duffy's rival, Eileen Hansen, also said she would have voted to overturn the veto.

"I am distressed that the veto wasn't overridden," Hansen said.

About Newsom's recusal she said, "I think it's very unfortunate that he blindsided the board that way. I don't understand why he didn't honor his colleagues and give them a heads up before the very end of the process."

In the same meeting, the board also set up possible future disagreements with the mayor on diverse issues such as planning, whether the city should buy non-diesel busses, and the future of some sidewalk scooters manufactured by Segway Industries. ▼

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Soulforce to fight charges stemming from bishops' protest



COURTESY GLAAD

Oakland's Kara Speltz, left, in red, and an unidentified Soulforce member were arrested by D.C. Metropolitan Police after they refused to leave the hotel during the bishops' conference.

by Joe Dignan

The leader of a national LGBT religious rights activist group has vowed to fight the criminal charges filed against three of its members after they were arrested in a protest during the annual U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting in Washington, D.C.

The trio pleaded not guilty to charges of unlawful entry at a hearing on November 21. They each face a maximum six-month jail term if convicted.

"This is a new tactic for us," said Mel White, director of Soulforce, a group that uses what it says are Ghandian tactics of non-violent resistance to fight ingrained homophobia in religious institutions.

White said that previously members of the group had routinely pleaded guilty when they

were arrested as a result of their frequent protests. White sees a potential trial as a forum to get further attention for the group's aims.

"We intend to subpoena several key bishops," White said mischievously.

The trio was arrested in the lobby of Washington, D.C.'s Capitol Hyatt Hotel on November 12, where the Catholic bishops were holding a conference to reevaluate the church's policy on handling sexual abuse by priests.

Two of the protesters knelt down in the lobby of the hotel while a third stood singing as bishops and dozens of press were streaming in and out.

The evening before, they had been denied communion at a special bishop's Mass at Washington's Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The priests serving communion at the Mass had been instructed to look out for attendees wearing rainbow sashes, and to refuse them communion.

Two of the Soulforce members were wearing what one of them, Oakland resident Kara Speltz, called "little ceramic rainbow crosses" that she said members of the group had made. Speltz routinely wears the cross while serving as a eucharistic minister at the University of California, Berkeley's Newman Hall.

The Rainbow Sash movement began in Australia and seeks to bring the Catholic Church to what it calls a "conversion of heart around issues of human sexuality."

Its members sometimes wear a rainbow sash to Masses, often concealed under clothing, and then reveal it during communion as a protest of the church's policies, which say that gay sex is a mortal sin.

According to the priest who refused to serve the three, the Reverend Michael Bugarin, Washington, D.C. archdiocesan staff had told priests not to give communion to members of the movement.

Catholic doctrine prohibits political displays at Masses. "The Mass can never be used as a protest. It is a sign of coming together, not coming apart," White said. He said that the Soulforce members did not intend their presence at the Mass as a protest.

Bugarin later told the *Detroit Free Press* that he regretted the incident and called it a "misunderstanding," but not until after the trio, Speltz, Mike Perez of Seattle, and Ken Einhaus of Arlington, Virginia, went to the Hyatt and knelt down in the lobby of the hotel.

The three held their hands cupped in the traditional gesture to receive the Eucharist, while White stood nearby and shouted, "Is there no bishop who will serve the Eucharist to these three faithful Catholics?"

Hotel security guards quickly sealed off the lobby, and, according to White, excluded journalists who were outside on the sidewalk. But bishops who were in the lobby at the time quickly left. "It was like the plague had come in," White said.

The protesters remained there, White said, for 25 minutes until police arrived, handcuffed them,

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PositiveForce

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December 8

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Conducted by: Center for AIDS Prevention Studies
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CONTINUE TO TELL THE STORY...

Study confirms low oral sex risk

by Liz Highleyman

Researchers from the University of California at San Francisco's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies have found that oral sex presents an extremely low risk of HIV transmission.

The study results, which were presented in a poster at the International AIDS Conference in July, appeared in the November 22 issue of AIDS.

Dr. Kimberly Page-Shafer of CAPS and colleagues asked more than 10,000 gay and bisexual men who sought anonymous HIV testing in San Francisco between 1999 and 2001 to complete a survey about their sexual activity during the preceding six months.

Of these, 239 reported having exclusively oral sex. The vast majority – nearly 100 percent – did not use condoms for oral sex. One-third said they got semen in their mouths, and 70 percent said they swallowed. The average number of oral sex partners in six months was three, but this num-

ber varied widely.

None of the 239 men who reported exclusive oral sex tested positive for HIV.

"The absence of HIV infection detected in this sample confirms that orally acquired HIV infection is rare," the researchers concluded.

Although the oral sex transmission rate among this small sample was zero, it cannot be assumed that fellatio never spreads the virus.

The researchers also calculated what they call the "population-attributable risk percentage" – an estimated rate of transmission for the population as a whole. This risk was also very low: 0.18 percent for men with one partner, 0.25 percent for those with two partners, and 0.31 percent for those with three partners. Using this calculation, the transmission risk would be considerably higher for men who have receptive oral sex with many partners.

In contrast, the estimated transmission risk for unprotected receptive anal sex is about 5 percent. The researchers suggested

that even protected anal sex that involves improper condom use might lead to more cases of HIV transmission than oral sex.

The recent results contradict those of a widely publicized 2000 study by Beth Dillon of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and colleagues, also conducted in San Francisco, which found that up to 8 percent of HIV infections among gay men may be due to oral sex. In that study, 20 out of 122 men newly infected with HIV between 1996 and 1999 attributed their infection to fellatio. Upon closer examination, unprotected anal sex could not be ruled out in 12 cases, leaving eight cases possibly attributable to oral sex.

However, the new results agree with those of a recent Spanish study that found no cases of HIV transmission attributable to an estimated 10,000 acts of unprotected fellatio among heterosexual couples.

"[A]cquiring HIV through fellatio is significantly less risky than from anal sex," the CAPS researchers stated. "[O]ne's choice of sexual practices does matter." ▼

Soulforce

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and took them to a District precinct jail.

Speltz, 65, said she spent 30 hours in the concrete jail cell, 20 of them in isolation, with, she said, "a steel bed and no blanket."

Speltz said the Soulforce protesters originally went to the conference, as they have for the past three years, to protest anti-gay doctrines in the Catholic Church and, Speltz said, to get the church to stop making gay priests scapegoats for the sexual abuse scandals that have rocked the church this year.

Members of Soulforce and Dignity, USA, the largest organization of LGBT Catholics in the U.S., demonstrated outside the bishop's meetings earlier in the week partly in response to attempts by conservative factions in the Vatican to advocate banning gays from the priesthood. Dignity handed out buttons that read, "Stop blaming gay priests."

Earlier this month, the Vatican said it is drafting new policies for accepting seminarians that will take into consideration if gays should be barred. Reports in the Roman newspaper, *La Repubblica*, said that an initial draft of the policy said that men with what it called "homosexual tendencies" should not be allowed to become priests.

The announcement followed a Catholic News Service report that two Vatican councils had prepared another draft document that, if implemented as Church policy, would also ban gays from the priesthood.

Catholic LGBT advocates said that both documents were, in part, attempts to get the issue of gay priests on the table at the bishops' conference in Washington. But the U.S. bishops did not officially take up the subject.

Dignity's president, Patrick McArron, said that in discussion with some of the bishops on the floor, they dismissed the idea of removing gay priests. According to McArron, they called the idea "ridiculous" and "unenforceable."

"It would mean removing half of the priests that they have," McArron said.

"But the U.S. bishops are a hard lot to figure. They tend to do what the Vatican says," he said. "But if the Vatican released such a document it would unleash a firestorm."

The bishops appear to be divided on the issue. Detroit Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, who spoke up after the arrests and said, "I admire them for doing it," told a group in Lexington, Massachusetts in May that, "certainly homosexuals should be welcomed in the priesthood."

Yet the president of the U.S. Bishops' Conference, Bishop Wilton Gregory, told the assembled church leaders in Washington, making an oblique reference to the protesters outside, that, "There are those outside the church who are hostile to the very principles and teachings that the church espouses, and have chosen this moment to advance the acceptance of practices and ways of life that the church cannot and will never condone."

Apostolic visitations

At their previous meeting in Dallas in June, the U.S. bishops adopted a charter that required American dioceses to relieve from their duties all priests who had been accused of sexual abuse. It included a provision which pledges "complete cooperation" with planned "apostolic visitations" of U.S. seminaries by Vatican officials. Dignity USA Execu-

tive Director Marianne Duddy said she fears that the visitations are going to be directed at removing gay men from the seminaries.

"This is sending up a flare," Duddy said. "This is what the visitations are going to be about. They're focusing on trying to root gay men out of the seminaries."

There are no hard figures on how many gay men are currently in the priesthood. There are, though, a much higher proportion of gay men in Catholic seminaries than in the general population. One author, the Reverend Donald B. Cozzens, estimated, in his book, *The Changing Face of the Priesthood*, that between 30 and 50 percent of Catholic Seminarians are gay.

A study released in August of 1,200 priests said that more than half of all Roman Catholic priests identified a "homosexual subculture" in their diocese or seminary. The study was sanctioned by the American bishops and was conducted by sociology professor Dean R. Hoge of Catholic University.

"Without gay priests there wouldn't be a Catholic Church," said Soulforce's White, "Some of their best and brightest priests, bishops, cardinals and popes have been gay. It's time they acknowledged it and changed their doctrines."

Maurice Healy, spokesman for San Francisco Archdiocese, said that he didn't know how many San Francisco priests are gay, but said that if a document banning gay priests is enacted, "There are going to be a lot of empty rectories." ▼

Pride theme

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to push the envelope and seek out new frontiers of freedom and justice.

"I was 16 when I first heard Harvey Milk say those words, and it was in the context of celebrating that 250,000 people were celebrating Gay Pride in San Francisco," reflected Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington. "As a young man coming out in what was then, homophobic London, to

know that there was a strong and proud community striving to make the world a better place was a huge support to me. It is in that role as a beacon of hope that San Francisco continues to comfort and inspire our people around the globe."

The theme was chosen following a series of ballots at a Pride meeting earlier this month. Next year is the 33rd anniversary of San Francisco Pride. The event will take place over the June 28-29 weekend. ▼

World AIDS Day

◀ page 1

chorus of professional and volunteer singers from the Bay Area.

In addition to a repertoire drawn from various religious faiths and other beliefs, the concert will feature selections of poetry by Walt Whitman with music from various composers. A set of pieces composed by jazz great Dave Brubeck using texts by Langston Hughes and a selection from the musical *Rent* will also be performed.

Following the free concert will be a reception. The event takes place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church Street in San Francisco. To reserve seats, call (415) 597-8273.

Lectures and talks

Vivien Harber, an associate priest at St. George's Cathedral and Diane Abrahams, an educator and AIDS activist, will present a lecture titled "AIDS: South Africa's Enemy" Sunday morning.

The two South Africans will talk about the realities they face as crusaders against the deadly epidemic. They will talk about how in their post-apartheid South Africa, the once-prevalent fear of a violent death is being overshadowed by the new enemy of HIV/AIDS. They will also discuss how the disease is claiming the lives of millions, leaving orphaned children and devastated communities.

Their discussion takes place Sunday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Grace Cathedral's Gresham Hall, 1100 Californian Street at Taylor in San Francisco. The event is free and open to the public.

For information call (415) 749-6360 or visit the church's Web site at www.GraceCathedral.org.

San Francisco's Freedom in Christ Church, a gay-affirming evangelical church, will present a special service featuring a talk by Beverly Barbo, author of *The Walking Wounded*, which chronicles her son Tim's struggle, and eventual death, with AIDS.

The discussion is free and will begin at 6 p.m. The church is located at 601 Dolores Street at 19th Street.

Grove debuts new feature

As part of its ninth annual observance of World AIDS Day, the National AIDS Memorial Grove will unveil the new Belvedere Overlook created from donations through Macy's Passport, American Express Foundation, and the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation. The grove, the country's only national AIDS memorial, will also present its fifth annual Grove Award for HIV/AIDS Community Service by a Volunteer on Sunday.

The event will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. at the grove on Middle Drive East in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. For more information, visit the grove's Web site at www.aidsmemorial.org or call (415) 750-8340.

AIDS art exhibit opens

The LGBT Community Center in San Francisco will unveil a new multi-media exhibit titled "The Life and Times of Reggie Williams" on Sunday as its celebration of World AIDS Day.

The installation, which runs until March 1, 2003, honors Williams, the co-founder and executive director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, the first nationwide AIDS prevention organization to target black gay men. Curated by Williams's partner Wolfgang Schreiber, the exhibit is sponsored by the GLBT Historical Society of Northern



Volunteers from the AIDS Emergency Fund counted pennies at last year's World AIDS Day event.

California and Black Brothers Ensemble, a project of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

The opening reception will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday at the center, 1800 Market Street.

Benefit sale

Under One Roof, the Castro store which donates its proceeds to local AIDS service organizations, is hosting its annual wine tasting and sale on Sunday. The event offers shoppers an opportunity to sample and purchase exclusive, hard-to-find vintages which have been donated by fine California vintners.

All proceeds from the special sale will benefit nearly 50 different AIDS agencies in the Bay Area. The wine tasting will take place from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and the store is located at 549 Castro Street.

East Bay vigil

The City of Richmond is sponsoring its second annual World AIDS Day march and candlelight vigil on Sunday, with this year's

theme "A Time for Sharing, Remembering the Past, and Moving into the Future."

Hosted by the West County AIDS Task Force and Contra Costa Public Health Services, the march will begin at the Unity Church of Richmond and end some three blocks away at the Richmond Civic Center Plaza. The Unity Church was the city's first church to welcome people with HIV/AIDS into its ministry in the early 1990s.

The march will begin at 4 p.m. at the church, located at 351 28th Street in Richmond.

North Bay religious service

The Metropolitan Community Church of the Redwood Empire and Guerneville Community Church are hosting a public gathering Sunday to observe World AIDS Day. Congregants from the sponsoring churches will gather to remember those who have passed and the continuing AIDS epidemic.

The observance will begin at 4

p.m. at MCC, 16219 First Street in Guerneville. All are welcome.

Free HIV testing

In an effort to help stop the spread of HIV, several agencies are offering free HIV screening tests on Sunday. In San Francisco, the Metropolitan Community Church in conjunction with the UCSF AIDS Health Project will provide free and anonymous HIV/AIDS oral testing.

The church has been offering the free testing monthly for the past year, and will provide the service on Sunday at its location at 150 Eureka Street in the Castro. The testing will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In the East Bay, the Berkeley Free Clinic is offering 12 consecutive hours of free anonymous HIV testing on Sunday from noon to midnight. The Berkeley Free Clinic is located at 2339 Durant Avenue at Ellsworth in downtown Berkeley. For more information call 1-800-6-CLINIC or (510) 548-2570 or go to www.berkeleyfreeclinic.org.

Counting pennies for AIDS

The fifth annual "Gathering the Pennies" event benefiting Sonoma County HIV/AIDS families with children will launch on Sunday. Coordinated by Sunburst Projects, a Rohnert Park nonprofit serving children and families living with HIV/AIDS, the penny collection will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at numerous locations throughout the county.

Stores participating in the drive include several Copperfield's Books locations, Reader's Books in Sonoma, River Reader in Guerneville, and Borders Books and Music in Santa Rosa. For a full list of sites, visit www.sunburst-projects.org.

The annual "Every Penny

Counts" drive in San Francisco will culminate next week at Yerba Buena Gardens when children from the Bay Area schools bring their penny jars to be counted. The yearly drive results in the counting of millions of pennies which are then donated to the AIDS Emergency Fund to help cover the costs of life's basic essentials for low-income San Francisco residents fighting AIDS.

Last year, the penny drive raised more than \$100,000 to help pay for such needs as housing costs, utility bills, and uninsured medical bills.

The penny-counting party will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 6. Students from participating schools will gather with their penny jars, and awards will be given to individuals and schools that raise the most money. ▼

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Hundreds turn out to celebrate Harry Hay

by Joe Dignan

About 250 friends and followers gathered on Saturday, November 23 at a memorial for gay rights pioneer Harry Hay who died on October 24 at age 90.

The "ritual and celebration," as friend and moderator Joey Cain called it, at Glide Memorial Methodist Church, was short on conventional religion because Hay, for many, was his own.

Hay, who founded America's first gay rights organization in 1950, the Mattachine Society, later in his life elevated his sights from the relatively pedestrian aspirations of social and political acceptance to devising a scheme of spiritual and intellectual fulfillment for gays which culminated, he thought, in his founding (with several others) of the Radical Faeries in 1971.

It's not just okay to be gay, Hay thought, but gay men have a special gift that they should revel in. "We are singular beings," Hay said, a very attractive notion for gay men brought up in Christian churches which, at best, speak a message of inclusion and, at worst, preach, like the Reverend Fred Phelps from Topeka, Kansas, that "God hates fags."

Faerie gatherings are rich in ritual. According to Cain, Hay appropriated the Faerie ceremonies from many sources. What Cain called the central feature of Faerie gatherings, the heart circle, Hay borrowed from American Indian sources.

"The circle signifies the community, the closure of the space, making it sacred and safe," Cain said. Safe, Hay thought, for a group,



Rick Gerhardt

John Burnside, left, the longtime partner of Harry Hay, with Joey Cain at Saturday's celebration of Hay's life.

gay men, which Hay had years before, for the first time in America, defined as an oppressed minority.

Hay also took the concept of four elements and four directions that he found in many religions. "North for the earth and body. South for fire and the will. West for water and intuition. And east for air and mind," Cain said. The program opened with an invocation of those four elements and a welcoming of what Cain called Hay's spirit.

"It's going to be a ritual, but we want everyone to have a good time," Cain said.

Privately, he cautioned the over a dozen speakers in the two and a half hour program to try not to be repetitive, and "please, don't do the thank you thing," he added, referring to the well-known anecdote about a young lesbian woman who, encapsulating Hay's

importance to the gay rights movement, approached Hay at a New York City pride celebration years ago and said simply, "Thank you for my life."

No one did, but several tried to assess Hay's lasting legacy.

The audience was almost all men, nearly all white, and mostly middle aged, in what Hay sometimes referred to as their "majestic time of life." They wore their festive Faerie garlands over thinning and graying hair.

Many cried.

Bill Blackburn, one of the speakers, talked of his conversations with Hay in his last days.

"On the other side, you get to be God. I'm pleased to know you will be carrying on the work," Blackburn said Hay told him. "Get the circle together and help decide what we bring to society and let the world know. All life needs us." ▼

Good Vibrations celebrates 25 years

by Liz Highleyman

On Thursday, December 5, sex toy emporium Good Vibrations will celebrate its 25th year of providing quality sex toys, books, and videos in a woman-friendly, sex-positive environment.

The oldest "clean, well-lighted place to buy sex toys" of its type, Good Vibrations became a model for retailers such as Seattle's Toys in Babeland and Boston's Grand Opening. As a fitting anniversary milestone, Good Vibrations this year sold its 1 millionth sex toy, and in December will open a third store on Polk Street.

Local sex therapist and educator Joani Blank launched Good

Vibrations in 1977. At the time, most sex shops were sleazy affairs located in questionable parts of town that catered almost exclusively to men. And the Web — which now allows customers to shop for intimate items in the privacy of their own homes — was years in the future.

The first Good Vibrations store — which also houses an antique vibrator museum — was located in San Francisco's dyke-friendly Mission District. The Good Vibrations mail-order catalog business debuted in 1985. The business became a worker-owned cooperative in 1992, and a second store opened in Berkeley in 1994. Today, Good Vibrations is part of Open Enterprises, an umbrella business that

also includes Down There Press, Passion Press, and the Sexpositive Productions video company.

"Our first store carried only a handful of toys and a few books, and now there are hundreds of items to choose from," said staff sexologist and longtime employee/owner Dr. Carol Queen. "This wonderful bounty exists partly because we helped create the market for it — by taking people's sexual interests seriously and expecting toy and video producers and book publishers to do the same."

The anniversary party will take place next Thursday, December 5 at 9 p.m. at Club NV. Tickets are \$15. Featured performers will include Deep Dickollective and SF

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An act of conformity or an act of queer consciousness?

by Justin Bell

Single Gay White Male, 25, 5'10", 155 lbs., Built, Straight-Acting.

Pick up the personal ads or visit an Internet chat room, and you are likely to find a gay man promoting his straight and masculine behavior. Activists in our queer community cringe. In their eyes, constructing a false appearance of straightness comes at the expense of broader LGBT visibility. Is acting straight and masculine just a selfish road to a gay man's personal comfort? When we project masculinity, are we merely conforming to straight ideals, or might we be proudly defying gay stereotypes?

After all, why should masculinity be the exclusive domain of straight men? A stroll through the Castro finds a high concentration of gyms, sport/nutrition stores, and athletic apparel retailers. Gay men seem eager to reclaim the realm of the masculine. The construction of a unique personal identity is a fundamental expression of creativity and style. And if personal identity creation is to be celebrated as an art form, the palette available to gays should be as full and limitless as the broad spectrum of human variation.

Transgender activist and University of New Hampshire faculty member Jo Ryan envisions a world where changing sexes is as commonplace as changing clothes. Such a world would allow us to realize "how mutable and shifting the terrain of identity really is."

If we all felt truly comfortable allowing our gender identities to flex and change, it is likely that fewer gay (and straight) men would cling to masculinity. Because although we should feel free to act masculine if we so choose, many choose to act masculine because they do not feel free to act any other way. So who are we to tell young gays growing up in intolerant areas that their preference to act straight is selfish and harmful to gay visibility? Certainly, gay men who have been the victims of hate crimes would not be criticized for choosing to project a masculine identity.

In progressive urban areas like San Francisco, the gay movement may best be served by visibly and

aggressively stretching the boundaries of acceptable behavior. But this movement is advancing on a huge variety of dissimilar fronts, and we would be wise to approach the various fronts on which our struggle is fought with a diversity of strategies.

In particular, there are still towns and cities across the world where most of the mainstream residents have yet to learn that gay people live and breathe among them, leading normal and productive lives. In places such as these, our cause would benefit as much from one commonplace individual gracefully coming out to friends, family, and co-workers as it would from a loud parade of visible queers. It is too easy for those who would deny equal rights to

LGBTs to distance themselves from us if they believe we are a different stock of human being.

Simply put, we need queers from all sides of the gender-bending spectrum. We need those who are highly visible and are expanding our concept of gender identity. And we need those who are calmly and quietly coming out to their friends and neighbors. As Chris Rock likes to joke, no one should be homophobic, because "everyone has at least a gay cousin." To many heterosexuals, the idea that they could be (or already are) related to a gay person – presented to them as a palatable nugget of humor – somehow makes gays seem a little less foreign. If everyone knew about their own gay cousin, or friend, or co-worker, Rock's visionary joke would suddenly seem comfortingly realistic.

Yet as valuable as ordinary rank and file gays and lesbians can be to the gay rights movement, they are ineffective as long as they remain closeted. Moreover, remaining closeted is infinitely easier when your behavior mimics that of heterosexuals. But before we accuse straight-acting gay men of taking the path of least resistance at everyone else's expense, let's not ignore the irony of excessively masculine behavior. That is, straight-acting, practiced in extremes, has a tendency to subvert the behavior's assimilationist origins. Let me say that another way: If you try to take straight-acting too far, it just doesn't work! Like it or not, when passing a pumped-up gym jock on the street, assumption often rests with

the individual having been labeled gay, not straight.

Over the past several years, we have witnessed the emergence of the ultra-masculine gay male subculture. Arguably, this is creative identity construction at work. Ultra-masculine gays venture beyond heterosexual norms. They are no longer trying to act straight; in fact, they care more about their muscular bodies than most straight men do. These ultra-masculine gays are, in their own way, expanding our possibilities of gender identity.

So, although there are definitely gay men who act masculine merely because it makes life simple, there are others who do so because masculinity appeals to the nature of their personal identity. We should encourage all members of the queer community to express their genders as they see fit, and we should applaud those who are actively defying gay stereotypes. ▼

Justin Bell is a 22-year-old San Franciscan, originally from Iowa City, Iowa. E-mail him at jhb@alumni.upenn.edu.

Milk March

◀ page 1

Diesel store at Harvey Milk Plaza.

"I wish more of you could have met Harvey himself," Gwenn Craig, a past president of the Democratic club which bears Milk's name, told the crowd from a makeshift stage outside of the clothing store. "There was no better showman than Harvey."

As the community prepares to mark the 25th anniversary of Milk's and Moscone's death next year, their friends said the lessons the two leaders imparted about queer visibility and acceptance will never fade.

"This is always a bittersweet time. A man, and a mayor, who had all the potential in the world were murdered, not assassinated. The power of that has never left us," said Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano. "True the crowds dwindle. And yeah, you can kill us. But you can't keep the message from being out there."

"I say to Harvey, wherever you are, thank you. Thank you for the inspiration. Thank you so much," added Ammiano. ▼

Good Vibrations

◀ page 18

drag king Rusty Hips. Among the special guests will be porn queen Nina Hartley, fetish diva Midori, video producers Shar Rednour and Jackie Strano, and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Drag, formal, or fetish dress is requested.

In early 2003 Good Vibrations plans to bury a time capsule that will include sex toys, books, and videos dating from 1975 to the present. ▼

For more information on the party, call (415) 974-8985 or visit www.goodvibes.com.



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OBITUARIES

Bernard Blumberg
1919 — 2002

A resident of San Francisco for nearly 70 years, Bernard died peacefully from a short illness. He taught speech and drama at Contra Costa College for some 25 years. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

David W. Clisbee

Clisbee, David W., advocate for the disabled and a Veteran of the Korean War died on Wednesday, November 20, 2002 in San Francisco, at the age of 65 years. Native of Denver, Colorado. Friends are invited to a Celebration of Dave's Life on Monday, December 9, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Senior Center, 481 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, CA. Donations to the above.

Antonio Garcia Ochoa

Antonio Garcia Ochoa went forth from this earth after struggling more than 15 years with AIDS, on Wednesday, June 12, about 20 minutes past midnight. He navigated the unruled terrain of the debilitating illness with a remarkably consistent good humor.

Tony cared passionately. His home was more often than not a secure place to find lodging for a few days for many a homeless person. He seemed to possess a genius for friendship. He told folks he was "lending" them money or whatever, as it turns out chiefly to make them feel not entirely on the receiving end and to assure that they retain their dignity, but

he never accepted anything back. Mostly he very simply and nonchalantly shared himself — all that he had, all that he was. And *is*.

Tony is survived by his three sisters, Lydia, Connie and Carmen, and his younger brother, Lupe, and his mother, Señora Hildelisa Ochoa. His tender and indefatigable spirit remains a source of strength and sustenance to them and to us. He is also survived by his beloved foster father, Dr. Cameron Thompson, who cared for him over a span of 27 years.

Tony's spirit helped those of us who were graced to accompany him at various times throughout his 43 years on earth, and that will never cease.

Carl Don "George" Shoun

Carl Don Shoun was born February 5, 1932, and passed away March 5, 2002, after an 11-year struggle with Parkin-

son's disease. Don leaves behind his lover of 44 years, John Gruber ("Martha"). Don was an avid member of the Teamster's Union, serving as recording secretary.

Don was also active in politics, being a die-hard Democrat. He was an avid 49er fan, often rooting for his team while slurping on his beloved Jack Daniels. He managed rental property in addition to his regular job for over 27 years. He was beloved by his tenants, always giving 110% or more.

Don was a generous and caring man, donating to over a dozen charities. He was incapable of passing a homeless person on the street without giving spare change. He was also an accomplished carpenter. He was happy with a hammer, nails, a saw, and a piece of plywood in his hands. He could create almost anything.

Donations in his memory can be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for research into Parkinson's disease.

Rest in Peace, sweet Prince. We Love You.

Richard (Dick) Stilts

March 27, 1946 — October 6, 2002

Dick was born in Nashville, TN, went to high school in Detroit, MI. He had a brief stint in the military and was



married for a very short time as well. He has lived all over from LA to Houston, from Seattle to St. Petersburg. His parents and only brother have also passed. He lived in SF from 1989 through 1996, with his second partner. Many might remember him by his cutting cynicism or his blue Buick Electra convertible. He passed away at Gay More Leisure World in St. Petersburg of wasting syndrome. He has asked that his ashes be tossed in SF, which will be done when they are released from Pinellas County, FL.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Art York, the Haight's 'Santa' dies at 76

by Cynthia Laird

Arthur William (Anthony) York, known to many in the community as "Uncle Art," died on November 8 at Coming Home Hospice in the Castro. He was 76.

Mr. York died of a weakened heart caused by a stroke and several heart attacks, and from complications of diabetes and emphysema.

Mr. York may be best remembered for dressing up as Santa Claus during the holidays as he delivered mail in the Haight-Ashbury District.

Born in 1926 in the Bronx neighborhood in New York City to Calvin and Catherine York, he was the third of six children. He attended Taft High School there. With World War II calling, Mr. York postponed graduation and joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1939. He attained the rank of colonel before being honorably discharged in 1945.

Mr. York promptly finished his high school education and soon moved to Elmira, New York with a newly found special friend. He held several jobs there in management, bartending, and in a factory. In the early 1960s, things changed for Mr. York on the per-



Arthur York in Santa costume

sonal and professional fronts. He heard the "siren song of the San Francisco flower children," a friend wrote, and soon headed west on his own.

After short stints as a census taker and bartender, in 1964 Mr. York landed a job with the U.S. Postal Service as a letter carrier — a job he held proudly until his retirement in 1991. Mr. York lived in, and delivered mail in the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood all those years.

It was during his postal service years that "Santa Claus" evolved. Mr. York put together a complete

outfit and delivered mail during Christmas week in his costume. He also played Santa at annual postal service holiday parties. On Christmas Eve, Santa would visit the AIDS Ward at San Francisco General Hospital and other hospitals, accompanied by two "elf" helpers. Each AIDS patient received a gift and a Polaroid photo of themselves with Santa.

Mr. York leaves many local friends from all walks of life. His friends thank Michael Macia, who helped orchestrate all the myriad details involved in Mr. York's final days.

Family survivors include sisters, Mrs. James (Martha) McEnroe, or Nyack, New York and Mrs. Tom (Barbara) Murdy, of Greenwood Lake, New York; niece Mrs. Sean (Patricia) Monroe, of Valley College, New York; and nephew James McEnroe, of Nanuet, New York.

Burial will be in Saint Raymond's Cemetery in the Bronx after a family-attended funeral service at Saint Anne's in Nyack, New York.

In San Francisco, a special Mass will be offered for Mr. York at Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond Street, on Sunday, November 30 at 5 p.m. Friends may gather after the service for a toast in celebration of his life. Call (415) 821-3059 for details. ▼

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PWA training, employment events announced

by Zak Szymanski

Many people with HIV/AIDS are still finding themselves in the unique position of getting stronger and living longer than they had anticipated, which means going back to work is an option, if not a necessity, to pay bills and lead productive lives.

For those who are no longer working, considering returning to work, or considering a career change for health reasons, the Positive Resource Center is hosting another one of its popular training and education resource fairs on Wednesday, December 4, at 6 p.m.

The resource fair is a free open house for HIV-positive people that features representatives from Bay Area training programs, schools, and universities, includ-

ing Arriba Juntos; Catholic Charities' Second Start Partial Rent Subsidy Program; City College of San Francisco; the Considering Work Project of UCSF AIDS Health Project; Department of Rehabilitation; Goodwill's WebLink and Career Services Programs; Jewish Vocational Services' Career Counseling and Office Technology and Internet Skills Program; PRC's Computer Training University; Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center; San Francisco State University; San Francisco Vocational Service; and the Small Business Administration.

Biotechnology, food preparation, small business development, medical billing, counseling, clothing, textiles, and teaching are just a few of the career options to be presented. In addition to career path and curriculum overviews, participating representatives will

also have information on financial aid and educational loans available.

The resource fair will be held at PRC's offices, 973 Market Street, on the 7th floor. Call (415) 777-0333 for more information.

In related news, PRC will present, in conjunction with the Small Business Administration, "HIV Entrepreneurs: How to Start a Small Business," on Friday, December 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The seminar will help HIV-positive men and women learn how to market, manage, keep the books, finance, and sustain a business, and will also address how self-employment affects disability benefits.

The small business seminar is located at SBA's Entrepreneurship Center, 455 Market Street, on the 6th floor. Call (415) 744-6771 to register. ▼

Wrestling with angels

by Jim Provenzano

Wrestling saw some of the strongest gay and lesbian competitors in Sydney, with experienced college champs winning, and a large group of novices getting a lot of mat time.

Despite claims of being sold out, most fans didn't show up until noon at the small gym. The obscure location near Olympic Park, and claims of being "sold out" dissuaded many, but the athletes carried on in good spirits for the appreciative fans.

With table tennis clacking in rapid fire at the gym next door, shouts echoed through the wrestling area. Only one serious injury interrupted the event, but mostly, bouts went smoothly.

The few women competing unfortunately suffered a dearth of competitors. Medals were given to all, including Golden Gate Wrestling Club's Erika Hom.

Among the stalwart novices was Vancouver, Canada-born Andy Quan, who now lives in Sydney. The author of *Calendar Boy*, a

collection of gay short fiction, enjoyed testing his one year of training, despite being defeated.

Wrestling in Australia, he said, is still in its infancy. "Most of the wrestlers here are from Eastern Europe and Iran," said Quan. "Born and bred Aussies boys don't wrestle, but the Sydney team from Harbour City Wrestling Club has been keeping it going. The Games has been special in putting a focus on wrestling."

Ich bin ein Berliner

Germany has shown amazing growth in its gay wrestling community in the past few years, and Ewald Kentgen is one of its devotees.

The three matches for the Berlin resident ended well, with one forfeit victory, another against the formidable Johnny Almony, San Francisco Golden Gate Club's captain (who won gold).

"Some of the guys were easy-going, like with Johnny," said Kentgen. "It was like playing. Others are a bit too aggressive, but in general, the atmosphere's fantastic."

Kentgen discovered wrestling late in life, having observed friends wrestle in Amsterdam. In the four years since, gay-inclusive clubs have sprung up all over Germany.

Gay-friendly tournaments include a Christmas vacation event in Frankfurt, and an outdoor event in a park outside of Berlin. "It's like a little summer camp," said Kentgen. A similar event takes place each July at Hillsdale Camp in Pennsylvania.

New groups in Stuttgart, Cologne, and Belgium have also

sprung from the Games, as well as a more organized approach to what has long been a bit of an underground, or misunderstood, sport.

The 2004 Eurogames in Munich has just added wrestling to its schedule, which may lead to more "ringen in Deutschland."

It's up to you, New York

Michael Ognibene claimed his third gold medal in the 60K category, and even coached novice grapplers between his own matches.

Born and living in New York City, Ognibene also coached high school wrestling for years at Stuyvesant High School, and cautiously returns to the sport with successive years, only to easily win gold.

"I've got 35 years of wrestling experience under my belt. I'm at the point where I'm about to hang up my shoes, so I'm trying to transfer some of this knowledge to the new guys out there."

At 1998's Games, Ognibene decided to wrestle under the country of Bosnia, having strong ties to his friends after living in Sarajevo, some of whom witnessed that victory. "My heart and mind were still in Bosnia, and I wanted to send some message, so I registered under Bosnia." Ognibene was thrilled to meet the lone Bosnian participant in this year's Games before Opening Ceremonies.

The Monday tournament was preceded the previous day with a clinic and welcome practice session, which encouraged novices to make their first efforts in wrestling a bit less awkward. Federation of Gay Games vice president, Golden Gate Wrestling Club coach, a medalist at every Games, and one of this year's Tom Waddell Award nominees, Gene Dermody almost choked up at the medals ceremony, stating without flattery, "This is the best wrestling at the best Gay Games that I've seen in 20 years. The best!"

It was certainly the best for Golden Gate members who racked up a total of 11 individual medals (see sidebar), and won the most points at the tournament. Dermody not only won his first gold after medaling in wrestling at nearly every Games. It was also his birthday.

Despite the lack of sleep from a building fire near their hotel, and organizing the troops from the airport to the Opening Ceremonies, Golden Gate's team captain Johnny Almony was able to relax and regain his composure for the tournament.

"I really felt that I was 'peaking' that day," he said. "The wrestling event organization and operation was better than some state level events here in California. I have nothing but praise for Peter Verey and NSW Wrestling Association and of skill and kindness of all the volunteers."

He ain't heavy

Also on Monday, November 4, powerlifting enjoyed an enthusiastic audience of about 50 fans at the sports facility across the street from downtown's Hyde Park. As skateboarders scuffed curbs above, the subterranean gym echoed with the shouts of women and men deadlifting and bench pressing. Dozens of women and men pushed their limits as crews of officials quickly adjusted weights up to the maximum.

San Francisco's Juan Toledo took pride in his efforts, despite

being "inconsistent in my squats," he said. "I only got one lift at 145 kilos. Bench at 125 was okay, but on the dead lift, I'm great. I have a strong back."

The complicated scoring method combines age, weight class, and a competitor's weight. There's a specific formula, yet competing with only one Australian and a Brit proved some simple math. San Francisco's Luke Cottrill won a gold in his weight category, before winning more in track and field later that week.

"They're big competitors in powerlifting, but they use power suits," said Toledo of the constricting hybrid singlet that resembles a wet suit. "I don't use them. I go raw. I know that sounds like 'without a condom,'" he laughed, "but I like to use my body and feel the weight."

A night at the opera

That night at the Sydney Opera House, Federation of Gay Games members schmoozed as a small contingent of singers, band members, cheerleaders, and speakers entertained invited athletes, composers, and celebrities.

Longtime federation members like Sara Waddell Lewinstein, Brent Nicholson Earle and other delegates were honored with awards for their contributions to the Games movement. Hung behind them in the foyer area were banners from each previous Games.

Following the performances and presentations, including the singing of a choral song by local playwright/composer Adam Sandel, guests sipped drinks on the balcony of the Opera House, enjoying the magenta sunset through the grid of Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Several wrestlers from U.S. teams compared tales of last-minute weight-cutting, having completed that arduous task earlier in the day. Athletes demurely showed off their newly-won medals, including Toledo, who had struck silver in powerlifting.

For scores and results, visit www.Sydney2002.org.au.

Foot in mouth

While the other media spins itself into a frenzy over some dumb comments by the 49ers' own John Rocker, (see story on page 2), I'll keep writing about gay athletes with brains and manners, thanks.

For openly gay flag football, play with the Shockwaves. Info: www.sfs Shockwaves.com

(Over the next several months, Games articles will be published, sport by sport. Bay Area team reps and individual athletes are encouraged to send their medals lists and info to: jimprovenzano@yahoo.com.)

More Gay Games VI articles are online at the ever-colorful www.sportscomplex.org. ▼



Courtesy www.ggc.org

Golden Gate Wrestling Club celebrates in Sydney



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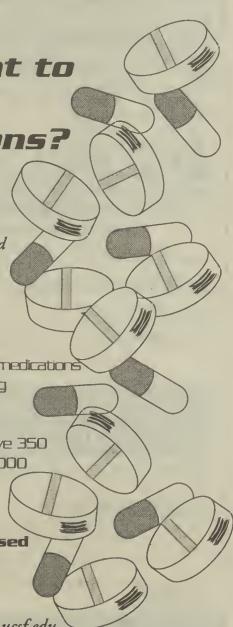
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For more information, contact the AACTG Study Line at 415-514-0550 ext. 358 or actu@php.ucsf.edu



New York gold: Metro's Gilbert Khouri, left, is coached by Michael Ognibene.

Jim Provenzano

Golden Gate Wrestling Gay Games VI medalists

Men Masters (weights are in kilograms)

55 Jose Caratini - Bronze
60 Erich Richter - Bronze
66 Johnny Almony - Gold
74 Si Durney - Silver
84 Tony Tapia - Bronze
84 Gene Dermody - Gold
120 John Ascher - Silver

Men's Open

66 Bryan Northam - Gold
74 Calvin Malone - Gold
120 Brad Taylor - Gold

Women

66 Erika Hom - Gold

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LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF HOUSING

The Mayor's Office of Housing offers FREE services including funding up to \$10,000.00 to clean up lead-based paint hazards from the residences of low to moderate-income households. Childhood lead poisoning is an illness that continues to rob our children of a bright future. Lead poisoning interferes with a child's ability to learn, develop and grow; and, it may create behavioral problems. Children in San Francisco continue to become lead poisoned from several sources. These include dust and soil contaminated with lead-based paint and peeling or cracked lead-based paint that children breathe or ingest. This program will be available only for a short time. For more information on the Lead Hazard Reduction Program, call Ted Telle at: (415) 252-3102.

SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

1424 Clerk Typist. Minimum requirement include, but are not limited to: Ability to type 45 wpm net; and one (1) year of verifiable clerical experience. Must be bilingual: English and Chinese (read and write Cantonese). Experience required: typing correspondence, answering telephones, and filing. A recognized clerical training program of 240 hours or the equivalent of 15 semester units in graded clerical college units may be substituted for up to six months of the required clerical experience.

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VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unclassified vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1st Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4699. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsupsrvs

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District consists of the following: The City and County of San Francisco is represented by nine directors. The Board of Supervisors appoints four directors, four of whom must be elected members of the Board of Supervisors, and four of whom must be members of the public-at-large. The Mayor appoints one Director. These appointments are subject to review and affirmation by the Board of Supervisors in January of each odd numbered year.

Vacant seats 1, 2, 3, and 4 must represent the public at large, for a two-year term subject to review and affirmation by the Board of Supervisors in January of each odd numbered year.

Veterans Affairs Commission

Consists of fifteen members, comprised of the following: eleven members appointed by the Board of Supervisors and four appointees of the Mayor.

Of the fifteen members, at least three must be women veterans and one a person who served in the Armed Forces of the United States and is suffering under a physical disability arising from that service in accordance with the definitions applied in such cases by the Veterans Administration.

For more information about each vacant seat, please go to the City web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsupsrvs

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspaper for errors and omissions.

STATEMENT FILE 0261914-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sunwing, USA, 130 Landers Street #J, San Francisco, CA, 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Larry Dean Elwyn. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA, on 10/28/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261850-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Shaw & A Haircut, 3685 17th Street #3, San Francisco, CA, 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Liam C. Passmore. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 15, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA, on 10/25/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261979-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Apple Homecare Medical Supply, 68 Cumberland Street, San Francisco, CA, 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Thomas Edward Shankle. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 28, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA, on 10/30/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261352-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Carmelinas Taqueria, 500 Parnassus Avenue, San Francisco, CA, 94143-0234. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Carmelina Narciso, Karim Salgado and Marco Ballesteros. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA, on 10/03/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261980-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Digital Memories, 4220 Cesar Chavez, No. 211, San Francisco, CA, 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Bernard J. Gundy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA, on 10/30/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0262083-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mandalay Dental, 5865 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA, 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Tin D. Tin D.O.S. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA, on 11/04/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 259640

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Digital Memories. Located at: 4220 Cesar Chavez #211, San Francisco, CA, 94131. This business was conducted by an individual signed David A. Lara. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on July 26, 2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0262108-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hau Hardwood Floor, 1299 Gilman Avenue, San Francisco, CA, 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Hau Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on November 4, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA, on 11/04/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNO.CNC 02-540501

In the Matter of the Application of Sherry Kathleen Burdick For Change of Name. The application of Sherry Kathleen Burdick has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sherry Kathleen Sly. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of December at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 02621277-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ascot Hotel, LLC, 1657 Market Street, San Francisco, CA, 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Nitin Patel, member manager. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on November 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA, on 11/12/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0262267-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Aquarius Journals, 1403 Lyon Street, San Francisco, CA, 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lisa Howard. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on November 18, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA, on 11/18/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0262416-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Aquarium Journals, 1403 Lyon Street, San Francisco, CA, 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lisa Howard. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on November 18, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA, on 11/18/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Wednesdays Death Machine LLC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, CA, 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 2800 24th Street, San Francisco, CA, 94110. Type of license Applied for:

48-ON-SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES

NOV. 28, DEC. 5, 12, 19, 2002

NOV. 27, 2002

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0261860-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Christian The Locksmith, 173 Foote Avenue, San Francisco, CA, 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Christian Denchay. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA, on 10/25/2002.

NOV. 21, 28, DEC. 5, 12, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0262243-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Conscious Chiropractic & Alternative Health Center, 200 Bush Street ste 348, San Francisco, CA, 94104. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Amy Michelle Paris, a chiropractic corporation (ca). The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA, on 11/08/2002.

NOV. 21, 28, DEC. 5, 12, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0262253-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Devotion Records, 389 17th Avenue, San Francisco, CA, 94121. This business is conducted by co-partners signed Eric Daniel Baca and Ruben Alec Mancias. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on November 19, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA, on 11/21/2002.

NOV. 28, DEC. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0262253-00

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NOV. 28, DEC. 5, 12, 19, 2002

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NOV. 28, DEC. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0262196-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bad Company Films, Good Company Films, San Francisco Film Society, San Francisco Cinema Club, 2828 19th Street, San Francisco, CA, 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Bassem R. Sireh. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA, on 11/29/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0262363-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Innovative Construction 276 Gold Mine Drive, San Francisco, CA, 94131. This business is conducted by a Trust signed Frank Sanchez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on November 15, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA, on 11/15/2002.

NOV. 28, DEC. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0262537-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Devotion Records, 389 17th Avenue, San Francisco, CA, 94121. This business is conducted by co-partners signed Eric Daniel Baca and Ruben Alec Mancias. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on November 19, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA, on 11/21/2002.

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NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

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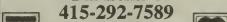
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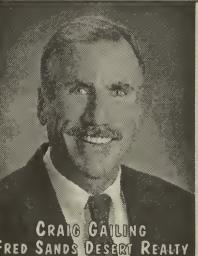
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When classical music and jazz unite
Trumpeter/composer Wynton Marsalis
makes hay with the SF Symphony.

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Handel on caffeine
SF Opera's 'Alcina' can't
stop moving around.

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Rock on, girl!
Kevin Cahoon proves his
womanhood in 'Hedwig'

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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 32 • No. 48 • 28 November 2002



Master of the macho ballet by Tavo Amador
The career of Gene Kelly

Classic Hollywood once rated its most famous dancers, Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly (1912-1996), as near-equals. While Astaire's reputation remains unassailable, Kelly's has fallen. Viewers interested in making their own assessment should rush to see his most joyous film, *Singin' in the Rain* (1952), which plays the Castro Theatre from November 28 to December 4.

Born in Pittsburgh, Kelly studied at Penn State. After odd jobs, he and brother Fred became dance instructors. In 1938, he joined the Broadway chorus of Cole Porter's *Leave It to Me*, dancing as Mary Martin sang that her heart belonged to Daddy. There he met future collaborator Stanley Donen. Richard Rodgers made him a sensational *Pal Joey* (1940), leading to a contract with David Selznick, who lent him to MGM. He supported Judy Garland in the smash musical *For Me and My Gal* (1942). He was sexy, macho, arrogant, and opportunistic — nothing like the elegant Astaire.

MGM bought Kelly's contract from Selznick, made him *Pilot No. 5*, followed by Porter's *Du Barry Was a Lady*, starring Lucille Ball. He danced *As Thousands Cheer*, wore *The Cross of Lorraine* (all 1943), before going to Columbia for *Rita Hayworth's Cover Girl* (1944), a big hit. Despite its success, he was sent on a disapp-

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Learning to talk

'Singin' in the Rain'
plays Castro Theatre

by Tavo Amador

We didn't need voices! We had faces then!" insists the demented Normal Desmond in Billy Wilder's mordant look at silent Hollywood, *Sunset Boulevard* (1950). A sunnier (and funnier) assessment of the impact talking pictures had is what *Singin' in the Rain* (1952) offers. A restored 50th anniversary print plays the Castro Theatre November 28 to December 4.

While *Boulevard* shows the longterm effect of lost fame, *Rain* assesses the immediate panic that followed the technological revolution sound brought to films. The premise is dazzling: Lina Lamont (Jean Hagen) and Don Lockwood (Gene Kelly) are the most successful screen team in Tinseltown. Lina is lovely, Don is dashing. It's only when Lina speaks (a revelation all the more delicious for being delayed) that we realize the girl's in trouble. She looks like a Dresden Shepherdess, and

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'Hairspray' cheers up New York City

Waters' hit stands out in the Big Apple

by Richard Dods

A required trip to Pittsburgh put me too close to New York not to continue east before heading back to SF. The main lure of the extension was a precious single ticket to *Hairspray*, secured months ago, and the musical proved as joyous as its hype had promised. It wasn't the only stage offering sampled during this trip, but it had no competition in the silly-grin department.

The musical based on the John Waters' movie of the same name is better than its source - itself a rare occurrence - and the pleasures seem to cut across demographic classifications. The older gent seated next to me, not the sort who frequents the Waters oeuvre, was rocking with the rest of the audience before the night was over.

If you've heard the original-cast CD, you already know that Mark Shaiman-Scott Wittman score is immensely accessible. It is a pastiche of early '60s music, but the sly lyrical content and the happily fulsome arrangements give it something more. Jack O'Brien's sharp staging and Jerry Mitchell's irresistible choreography are further assets.

Missing from the cast on this particular night was the well-reviewed Marissa Jaret Winokur, who plays plump teen Tracy Turnblad, but understudy Katy Grenfell had enough of the right stuff to let the show take off. Fortunately, Harvey Fierstein, the only performer who could replace Divine, was present, and in fine fettle, as Tracy's mom.

Hairspray, with its tale of out-



Harvey Fierstein is fab as Tracy's mom.

siders finding their way in, is such a well-constructed feel-good experience that its makes *The Producers* seem a little sour, *Mamma Mia!* a little dumb, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* a little dull.

Yes, I did buy a ticket to *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, figuring the Tony winner would be at least lively and fun. The Wednesday matinee was pre-

dictably populated with old ladies, and they seemed to like it. Snippets of praise could be heard after the curtain calls. "The singing was beautiful." "The sets were beautiful." "The costumes were beautiful." "It's nothing, but it's beautiful."

The much-praised Sutton Foster was pleasant enough as Millie, but the story never connected, even in musical-comedy terms. What should have been the saving grace, the tap-heavy production numbers, were surprisingly uninteresting. The revival of *42nd Street* is a better bet if you're in the market for dumb spectacle.

For really dumb spectacle, you're unlikely to do better than *Dance of the Vampires*, a new musical in which Michael Crawford trashes his own performance in *Phantom of the Opera*. The show itself (seen at a preview) is a campy variation on the Dracula story inspired by Roman Polanski's *The Fearless Vampire Killers*.

In addition to Crawford's return to Broadway, the musical has

two distinguishing characteristics. The music is by bombastic Jim Steinman, best known for Meat Loaf's *Bat Out of Hell* album, and the production is so Las Vegas-spectacle huge that its excesses earn a lot of the laughs.

Steinman even recycles "Total Eclipse of the Heart," his hit for Bonnie Tyler, as the main anthem of the show. The import of other songs are revealed in such titles as "God Has Left the Building," "Garlic," "Read My Apocalypse," and "Death Is Such an Odd Thing."

The story does have a gay angle. The vampire count's son is an over-the-top queen who tries to seduce a surprisingly aroused young hero. Another twist: The vampires win in the end.

Dance of the Vampires, which I suspect will take a critical drubbing when its twice-delayed opening finally arrives, was at least more compelling than the critically praised *Movin' Out* that couples Billy Joel songs with Twyla Tharp's quasi-modern choreography.

Through dance, Tharp tries to impose a story of young friends pulled apart by the Vietnam war onto a succession of Joel tunes. There are some fine dancers in the company, and some of Tharp's steps are inventive. But, in the end, it felt like an empty exercise that seemed to split the audience.

The always interesting Elaine May is back with a new comedy titled *Adult Entertainment* that I saw in previews. It tells a mostly comic story of porn performers, rather dim bulbs all, who hook up with a young intellectual who convinces them they can make art. The director, of all people, is Hollywood veteran Stanley Donen of *Singin' in the Rain* fame.

The paunchy middle-aged audience seemed to be thrown by the play's subject matter and humor, but I liked it for its novel take and wry wit. It also has two fine performances in Danny Aiello as the gruff porn director and Jeannie Berlin (May's daughter) as an aging porn star.

next page ►



Now playing in New York: a sampler of stage-show programs.

Hot-rockin' Cahoon

Actor excels in a mesmerizing 'Hedwig'

by Richard Dodds

As a theatergoer, I've been around the block more than a few times, but Kevin Cahoon's performance in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* is like nothing I've ever before seen. My God, does this man put on a show!

John Cameron Mitchell's off-Broadway hit has finally made it to San Francisco, and the Victoria Theatre, with its faded stabs at grandeur, is the perfect place to encounter Hedwig in all her angry, pensive, and sardonic glory. Cahoon, who replaced Mitchell in the original New York production, is a performer who can capture all these facets, and many more, and send them out to a mesmerized audience.

Hedwig herself is a fascinating, insightful character, who begins as a slip of a girly boy growing up in East Berlin and goes searching for his other half. An American soldier offers marriage and escape if he becomes a she, but the operation is botched (hence the "angry inch") and the newly born Hedwig finds herself abandoned and penniless in a Kansas trailer park.

Through Mitchell's wickedly intelligent script and Stephen Trask's rocking score, Hedwig tells of her unhappy journey, rife with abandonment that culminates when her rock-star protégé pushes her out of his life and career. We hear occasional strains of Tommy Gnosis' ego-driven stadium rock concert whenever Hedwig masochistically opens the theater's backdoor.

The music can be loud, and some of the lyrics are hard to make out, but don't let the notion that this is just head-banging stuff keep you away. There is considerably more dialogue than song, and the score contains ballads as well as the hard stuff. And by the end, you are so much into Hedwig's story that even the most clamorous passages are clearly there to feed a forceful dramatic energy.

This is abundantly true in the cathartic finale that offers a musical version of a nervous breakdown. But from this sonic bedlam, performed by Cahoon with frightening fury, comes an epiphany that sends Hedwig on a



Kevin Cahoon packs a wallop! This girl really knows how to rock!

new and hopeful journey.

Jason Eagan, an upcoming New York director, has put his own sizzling spin the production that well serves the material. The four-piece onstage band solidly rocks, and lisa e. (her spelling) plays Hedwig's husband and backup singer with a fine voice and a beguiling deadpan manner.

Each production of *Hedwig* is localized, and there are some

funny references to the Victoria and its colorful neighborhood. Perhaps the best local line comes when Hedwig refers to her show as "shadow puppetry of the penis." How perfect! ▼

Hedwig and the Angry Inch is at the Victoria Theatre in an open-ended run. Tickets are \$25 and \$30. Call 863-7576.

Backstage

◀ previous page

Pittsburgh also got into the act during this trip which serendipitously had the world premiere of a new Christopher Durang comedy up and running. City Theatre, a major Pittsburgh venue, is presenting *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge*, a spoof on *A Christmas Carol* that eventually merges with *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Like a lot of recent Durang, the new play is funny, cynical, and disposable. Many of the laughs come from cultural references that will be forgotten in a few years, and one of its central jokes is based on the already-stale Leona Helmsley scandal. As a full-length play, it's also too long. Still, it sure beats another visit to the real *A Christmas Carol*.

Short scenes

The Neo Dandy Cabaret, opening Dec. 7 at New Conservatory

Theatre Center, offers a bill of "dangerous outsiders" in a production "instigated and directed by Keith Hennessy." Call 861-8972.

Hotel Bethlehem, a raunchy alternative to typical holiday entertainment, is back for a second year at Exit on Taylor. Tom W. Kelly and Tim Bryant's comedy has been revised, recast, and redirected for this run. Call 877-810-1571.

42nd Street Moon concludes its season-long tribute to Richard Rodgers with *Too Many Girls*,

opening Nov. 29 at the Eureka Theatre. The 1939 Rodgers and Hart collaboration will have a "Saturday Night Out" performance and reception for LGBT audiences on Nov. 30. Call 255-8207.

Theatre Rhino is putting on a holiday variety show to benefit itself. The Dec. 14 event is hosted by Laurie Bushman and P.A. Cooley and includes performances by Doug Holsclaw, Lunatique Fantastique, Matthew Martin, Sara Moore and others. Call 861-5079. ▼

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Jazz mates with classical

Marsalis & SF Symphony produce 'All Rise'

by Philip Campbell

The hottest road show to hit Davies Hall in many a moon has already blown in and out of town. Trumpeter, composer and musicologist Wynton Marsalis brought his Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra to join with musicians of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in making a truly joyous noise. The dust has probably settled by now, but the fallout from the local premiere of Marsalis's ambitious *All Rise* should linger for quite a while.

The attempt to marry popular music with classical continues to challenge some very talented composers with variable results. That Marsalis should still seek the perfect union and come closer than most is a remarkable achievement in itself. Not since the great symphonic writing of Duke Ellington have I heard a piece of such accomplishment.

Is *All Rise* a cantata, choral symphony or lushly scored (and massive) jazz set? The answer is, yes to all of the above and more. To quote the composer, "The Blues considers the secular and sacred experiences to be twins."

Eight movements comprise the first half of the score, and the second part contains four more. That adds up to almost two hours of extremely varied music — with rags, blues and gospel colliding



Wynton Marsalis has accomplished a marriage of musical forms.

happily with fugues, reels, sambas and an authentic New Orleans funeral. What it lacks in symphonic cohesion, it atones for with a genuine melange of American spirit.

Marsalis calls the 20th century the Century of Communication and predicts that the 21st will be the Century of Integration. He is on to something, hopefully. The global community is getting tighter — perhaps; the artists will help us to get along. The American ideal of the melting pot finds a musical voice in *All Rise*.

Quibbles with the structure of the score evaporated before the exuberant Dixieland finale. The sight of Chorus members clapping hands and testifying while Symphony members got into the swing along with the ferociously talented jazz musicians was enough to spell success.

Before the concert, lecturer Charles Barber called Marsalis a sly composer and I think I know just what he meant. As a performer, he is a wonderful hybrid, a real McCoy jazzman who also happens to have classical training. As a writer, that background is marvelously apparent in every page of the score.

Marsalis borrows heavily from genres, but every note is original. During what is, arguably, the pivotal episode of the piece — "The Halls of Erudition and Scholarship (Come Back Home)" — I was gasping in admiration.

Starting with a motto that sounds like the opening of Sondheim's *Pacific Overtures* and moving on through a glistening passage of minimalism a la John Adams, the movement ends quietly and deeply with a gospel tune. It is pure Marsalis and it makes his point with a sly wit and warm humanity. There can be an agreement between academic and folk wisdom after all.

That ended the long (75 minutes) first half, but the audience was uncommonly enthusiastic during the intermission and appeared undaunted at the prospect of spending more time in the hall. There was a general feeling that we were all sharing in a unique event.

Before the concert started, a bold fan hoisted her teenage son to the stage for a photo with a

sweetly compliant Marsalis. The audience broke into spontaneous applause and it set the tone for what would follow. His honor the Mayor joined the audience late, but he was clearly there for the show and not the recognition. Soon, he was tapping and clapping along with the regular symphony patrons. Now that is my idea of a receptive crowd.

Making the Duke proud

All Rise could use some pruning, but choosing a section for excision would be tough. Best to accept it on its own terms and go with the flow. Since we had all accepted that it would be a long night, it might have been wiser to divide the twelve movements into three sets. I would savor that kind of programming in a jazz concert setting and the sections might appear more unified.

The performance itself was amazingly controlled and expressive. The conductor was Steven Sloane, a rather thankless task, as he really served more as a traffic director than interpreter. Still, without him, the massive forces would surely have been confused.

The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra would have made the Duke himself proud. Sitting among them, Wynton Marsalis was one fabulous sideman. The vocal soloists, drawn from Vance George's SFS Chorus, showed they can swing with the best of them, and soprano Karen Slack made a beautifully moving contribution at the top of the concluding "I Am (Don't You Run From Me)."

Cello Peter Wyrick and Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik both had impressive solos, but it was the soloists from the LCJO who really stopped the show. Their stunning improvisations and tight group playing never slackened.

The encore was, suitably, a free-form Ellington jam with members of the jazz band scatting with soloists from the orchestra. The notes were popping right off the griddle and the ovation was so prolonged that the performers finally had to up and leave the stage. Communication and integration — *All Rise* is a good thing. I'm really glad it's out on compact disc. ▼

Berlin is tops for opera

Rattle pulls off a great 'Gurrelieder' CD

by Tim Pfaff

It's not that often that a classical CD gets the chance to be controversial, but a tempest in a teapot has roiled distastefully around Simon Rattle's new recording of Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder* (EMI, 2 CDs). It smacks of the pettiest of jealousies. This new CD of Schoenberg's early cantata (for lack of a better word) marks Sir Simon's first recording with the Berlin Philharmonic since becoming its new music director (but not his first CD with the orchestra). Because he's English, not German — and snubbed some of America's premiere orchestras who sought him as their new music director — any number of the benchwarmers in the classical musical industry were out to get the brilliant, still-young English conductor as he took the helm of what is still widely regarded as the world's greatest orchestra.



Here's the dish. Rattle conducted the behemoth of a work — which calls for some 400 performers — as part of the 2001 Berlin Festwochen (a festival) and recorded it with substantially the same forces (but not live) at the time. This is standard operating procedure for record companies, who love to cry poor these days. (Perhaps someone could have taken a moment out to be grateful for the sheer opportunity to record this massively difficult piece with the conductor who is arguably its greatest living interpreter in the first place, and largely on the Berlin Philharmonic's tab, not EMI's. But I dream.)

The soprano singing the principal role of Tove — an apparently entirely adequate musician whose name I don't even recall,

she's still such an unknown — was replaced for the recording by Karita Mattila — who didn't even take part in the original recording sessions but "taped in" in London later. It seems that the mere fact that EMI didn't smear this information all over the cover of this release — which makes no claim to be "live" (and isn't) — has made a small but vocal cadre of music writers and insiders cry foul.

The hypocrisy is hard even to fathom. Opera's "superstars" have been "flying in" to make such dubbed appearances for so long now it's all but an established procedure. And, as anyone who has just seen Mattila's Kat'a Kabanova at the Opera knows, she's better than most known, to say nothing of unknown, other singers. It turns out she's one of the truly great assets of this recording — the one we've all been waiting for without even knowing it, by the way. By now, the entire project has been vindicated. Not only has it drawn nearly universal acclaim, it won *Gramophone* magazine's Choral Recording of the Year award this month.

Composed over more than a decade, *Gurrelieder* is lightly dusted with the advanced compositional techniques that have, altogether unfairly, made Schoenberg box office poison for most of the last century. Still, it is, by any standards, the late Romantic spectacle piece par excellence. It's also truly touching and has unfathomable depths. It's some of the most lush, yet pictorially precise, nature music ever written, and its vocal writing, for five soloists but principally for Waldemar (Thomas Moser) and Tove (Mattila), is some of the most sublime since Wagner. Yes, it's tortured music, but only on the emotional plane — this is a tale of love of the deepest and most desperate and tragic kind.

The music is not just comprehensible but transporting from the first listening — and only gets better the longer you let it work on you. This is the singular virtue of a great recording, and in this one, we have one that so clearly

qualifies for the as-yet-unmarketed "Great Recordings of the 21st Century" series that it's merely a welcome bit of restraint on EMI's part that they haven't packaged it as such.

Moser's tenor is of such a fine caliber that every time I hear it, I wonder why he isn't in the same kind of demand as Domingo, Mattila is at her radiant best, as "present" as anyone else on the recording. And the supporting cast of soloists includes the most refined and expressive singers of the day: Anne Sofie von Otter (the Wood Dove), Philip Langridge (Klaus-Narr), and Thomas Quasthoff (Bauer, and the Speaker). But on the vocal front, it's the elevated work of all three choruses Rattle has assembled that justify the CD's award in the choral category. Finally, Rattle and the BPO are, in a word, peerless.

Barenboim & Thielemann

Berlin must be the place to be, musically, these days. Counterbalancing Rattle's work with the BPO, the city's opera life is divided (as contentiously as if, artistically, someone had rebuilt the Berlin Wall) between two other music directors, Daniel Barenboim and Christian Thielemann, who together are considered some of the most important conductors working in opera today.

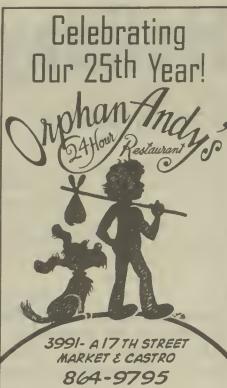
Puzzlingly, we have yet to get a complete opera recording from Thielemann, my clear favorite of



Conductor Simon Rattle

the two, whose *Elektra* at the War Memorial a few years back remains one of my most indelible opera memories. But he's recently compensated with DG's *Evening Star: German Opera Arias*, an intriguing collection of mostly little known baritone arias featuring the *Gurrelieder's* Thomas Quasthoff, whose small presence there is more than made up for in this wonderful new recital disc.

Quasthoff does bring a Lieder singer's attention to detail to these rare items, but it's the range of his expression — from the rollicking comic to the poetically sublime — that makes this CD work. Its only familiar items are two selections from Wagner's *Tannhäuser* (and the "title track," "O du, mein holder Abendstern" gets a reading for the ages.) The transparent, spacious, yet saturated sonorities Thielemann draws from the Deutschen Oper Berlin are fully representative of this front-rank conductor at his best. If he can't come back to SF, can he at least give us a complete opera recording — and now — please? ▼



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Holiday CDs to soothe, amuse and inspire

by Jason Serinus

The high quality of this year's holiday-inspired releases comes as a welcome surprise. Here is part one of a survey of music suitable for individual uplift, collective celebration, and joyful affirmation.

Romantic Christmas Songs (Weihnacht der Romantik) - RIAS Kammerchor, Uwe Gronostay (Harmonia Mundi) Any chorister hearing this disc will dream of producing an ensemble sound as round and perfectly blended. Instead of the blustery, full-out, ragged singing that afflicts so many choral concerts, the 35-member RIAS Kammerchor's 11 sopranos, eight female altos, eight tenors, and eight

basses perform the 19th-century romantic Christmas repertoire with a warmth and conviction as open and nurturing as Mary's welcome to her newborn.

Harmonia Mundi recorded this compilation last June in Jesus-Christus-Kirche, Berlin. The label's extensive experience in combining the uniqueness of a church's reverberant acoustic with an ideal clarity of individual voices and instruments gifts us with one of the smoothest choral recordings of the year. The warm blend is perfect for the music of Reger, Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Fuchs, and other 19th-century romantic composers. The graciousness with which the RIAS Kammerchor interprets this music makes for ideal listening, either in silence or as background music for feasting and celebration.



Sacred Songs - Plácido Domingo, Sissel Orchestra, Sinfonica E Coro Sinfonico di Milano Giuseppe Verdi (DG) Plácido Domingo is a wonder. For the first compilation of sacred songs in his long career, the 61-year old tenor delivers an absolutely steady stream of dark, burnished, healthy tone, including several high C's. The reverent

interpretations, though somewhat uniform in emotion, consistently reflect the generosity of voice and spirit that has become Domingo's hallmark. There is a sheer beauty to the performances, enhanced by a somewhat disembodied acoustic, that wins one over from the first notes.

Domingo's 16 selections include such classical mainstays as Franck's "Panis angelicus," the Bach/Gounod "Ave Maria," Schubert's "Mille cherubini in coro," Handel's "Ombra mai fu," and Rossini's "Domine Deus." Even though Domingo comments in the liner notes, "In a sense, all music is sacred, because it seems to come to us from a divine source," not all these selections are either categorized as "sacred music" or traditionally associated with the Christmas season — certainly not Richard Rodgers' "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" from *The Sound of Music*, and Richard Wagner's "Der Engel" from his five *Wesendonck-Lieder*. Yet Domingo triumphs with a voice and quality that has few if any peers on today's stages.

Two of the works, Mascagni's "Ave Maria" (a vocal arrangement of his famed Intermezzo from the opera *Cavalleria rusticana*) and Stölzel's "Bist du bei mir" (once attributed to J.S. Bach), are performed with Norwegian-born singer Sissel, known for her contributions to the soundtrack of the film *Titanic*. Robert Sadin has arranged both these selections in a manner that wedds old forms with modern styles.

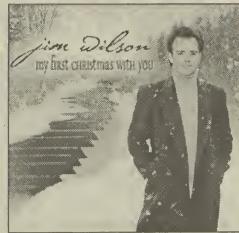
Attention is also drawn to Paolo Rustichelli's attractive, modern "Kyrie," with the composer providing accompaniment on piano, guitar and synthesizers, and the family team of Plácido Domingo, Jr.'s "Ave Maria," featuring Dad on voice and Luisa Domingo on harp. Highly recommended.

Rejoice! A String Quartet Christmas, Vol. II (John Marks Records) John Marks' audiophile label (www.jmrds.com) has consistently produced audiophile recordings of the finest musical and sonic quality. A case in point is this disc, part of a series of three *Rejoice!* Christmas recordings that feature an accomplished string quartet headed by violinist Arturo Delmoni.

Delmoni has done a wonderful job arranging these tracks, playing them with a distinctive, old-world coloring that deepens their effect. Joined by violinist Nina Bodnar, violist Natasha Lipkina, and cellist Nathaniel Rosen, with guest harpist Emily Mitchell on "Ave Maris" by Bach/Gounod and Schubert, Delmoni delivers performances so tasteful and satisfying as to make this disc a treat from first note to last.

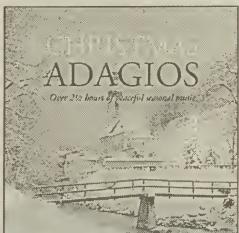
Although the music relates to the Christian holiday season, there is a sophistication to the playing, combined with a seductive recorded sound, that makes this beautiful disc universally appealing for year-round listening.

Jim Wilson: My First Christmas With You (Hillsboro) New Age pianist/composer/arranger Jim Wilson's first Christmas album comes on the heels of two previous hits, *Northern Seaside* (Angel/EMI), which went Top 20 on *Billboard's* New Age chart, and *Cape of Good Hope* (Hillsboro/Green Hill), which made *Billboard's* New Age Top 10, and led to an hour-long national PBS television special.



Twelve tracks last a mere 45 minutes. The programming seems especially stingy, given that Joni Mitchell's soft-jazz "River" and Wilson's title song appear twice in different versions. Many of the traditional tracks, such as "Little Drummer Boy," "Silent Night," and "O Come All Ye Faithful," are arranged by Wilson. Distinct highlights are Dan Fogelberg's vocals on "God Rest ye Merry Gentlemen," Marilyn Martin and Wilson's duet on one of Wilson's title tracks, and Stephen Bishop's vocals on "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

If by New Age we mean a synthesized, wrap-around, all-enveloping Space Age acoustic that makes the classical soundstage seem dwarfed, then this album certainly qualifies. The basic aura of sound is wondrous. But if New Age implies a higher level of understanding where all people are understood as equally precious, divine manifestations of the Creator's love, then this album, along with air-brushed New Age art that tends to feature mostly naked, blond, long-haired maidens nurtured by dolphins and whales, leaves me puzzled. The arrangements and two original Wilson tunes are distinctly middle-of-the-road; the pianism lacking richness, depth and nuance; and the music more an invitation to kick back than a catalyst for transcendental consciousness. Easy on the ears? Certainly. But ultimately, far more a soporific than a major musical statement.



Christmas Adagios: Holiday Classics to Touch your Heart and Soul (BMG) This major recycling effort from BMG's rich archives proves a mixed bag. The 20 tracks, lasting almost 75 minutes, feature selections recorded from 1959-97 by such stellar musical forces as flutist James Galway, The Boston Pops with Arthur Fiedler, clarinetist Richard Stoltzman, The Canadian Brass, The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and The Philadelphia Orchestra with Eugene Ormandy. Some of the slow, mellow arrangements of customary Christmas titles are soothying and eminently musical. Others are of more questionable taste, including Sir Thomas Beecham's very old-style, ponderous rendition of the Sinfonia from Handel's *Messiah*, and some Boston Pops arrangements that verge on camp. As long as you play it softly in the background, where differences in recording technique and musical quality are minimized, this is a fine disc with which to set the Christmas mood. ▼

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Just warmin' up at 75

Barbara Cook in 'Mostly Sondheim'

by Richard Dodds

On opening night of her current engagement at the Curran, Barbara Cook seemed to be holding back vocalily during the first part of her *Mostly Sondheim* program. Maybe it took her a while to warm up, or maybe, at 75, she needs to gauge her vocal stamina before comfortably revving up.

But even when Cook is cooking on low, she can still make you hear familiar lyrics as if for the first time. And soon enough, the energy had returned, and the magic that fans of Cook have long known about could come to a boil.

Mostly Sondheim is in San Francisco following a Carnegie Hall concert and a subsequent Broadway run. Actually, Cook tried out the concept during a short run at the Geary Theatre two years ago, but it doesn't feel like a rerun even if many of the songs are the same.

The notion of the show is to mix songs by Stephen Sondheim with some of the songs he has said he wished he had written. In the latter category, you find such unexpected tunes as "Hard-Hearted Hannah," "You Can't Get a Man with a Gun," and "Waiting for the Robert E. Lee."

And fortunately, Sondheim included "Ice Cream," Cook's song from *She Loves Me*, on his list. "I



Sondheim interpreter Barbara Cook

have to give that B-natural a little more thought than I used to," she said after nailing the note at the song's end.

The Sondheim wish list is a delightful conceit, but the heart of the program is in the songs by Sondheim himself. Cook is one of the best interpreters of his work, which makes sense, since both singer and songwriter are so attuned to what the song has to say.

It's impossible to select the best from Cook's Sondheim repertoire when the list includes "Losing My Mind" and "In Buddy's Eyes" from *Follies*, "Happiness" and "Loving You" from *Passion*, "Not a

Day Goes By" from *Merrily We Roll Along*, and an a cappella rendering of "Anyone Can Whistle."

Cook is also a delightful onstage banterer, whether casually asking for more house lights so she could see the audience or recalling her photo in a magazine article that made her look like "soprano road kill."

Some of her patter has obviously been honed, even if she makes it seem fresh. But after the song "San Francisco" brought tears to her longtime accompanist Wally Harper, the talk between them and

us was fittingly spontaneous.

There's no reason to suspect we won't be enjoying Barbara Cook for years to come, but, at 75, you do have to start imagining a time when we won't have that pleasure. That makes her time on the Curran stage all the more precious. It should not be missed by anyone with affection for the American popular song. ▼

Barbara Cook in *Mostly Sondheim* will run at the Curran Theatre through Nov. 30. Tickets are \$30 - \$65. Call 512-7770.

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A grand 'Emperor's Club'

Kline, Hirsch, Dano shine in Hoffman film

by David Lamble

If you're one of those people who hated *Dead Poets Society*, and were baffled and disgusted as to why so many film goers loved it with its obvious and perhaps dishonest melodrama and blatantly homophobic subplot, then may I recommend an anti-*Dead Poets Society* film, director Michael Hoffman's *The Emperor's Club*. Starring Kevin Kline as a conscientious prep school assistant headmaster, with a gifted ensemble of adolescent actors including Emile Hirsch (fresh from his debut in *The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys*) and marking the first post-L.I.E. appearance of Paul Franklin Dano, *The Emperor's Club* is the story of a teacher (Kline) who goes overboard in trying to help a student (Hirsch) at the expense of another student (Dano). *The Emperor's Club* is, like *Dead Poets Society*, a flawed work of art, but its flaws are on the side of the angels, and a conversation with its director hints at the still better film it might have been.

Sedgewick Bell (Hirsch) is a charismatic shit-disturber, a 14-year-old rebel without a cause who suddenly invades the well-ordered classroom of William Hundert (Kline) like a Visigoth swooping down on the 4th century Roman Empire. Fearing that he will lose the love and respect of his students to the irrepressible Bell — who has already led some of them on an unauthorized visit to the nearby girls academy, and who gets Hundert to persuade an anal female librarian to lend out a precious book on the reserved reading list — Hundert makes the wooing of Sedgewick a special project, one that causes Hundert to violate his standards for grading and thus betray another student.

The sexually evocative language I've used to describe the plot is no accident, as Hoffman himself employs similarly charged

imagery — "Sedgewick seducing the other boys to go down his path at the girls school, Hundert being seduced by Sedgewick or the way in which they bond in the scene with the librarian," — leading me to ask whether or not there is an erotic subtext to the relationship between teacher and student. Hoffman replies that Ethan Canin, whose original short story, "The Palace Thief," is the source of *The Emperor's Club*, told him that while the teacher in his story isn't gay, the person he's based on is. Hoffman wonders what would result if the film's audience were to believe that Hundert changed Sedgewick's grade because of a homosexual crush, if this homoerotic subplot would then become the major focus of the film. Hoffman says that although he might be willing to make such a film, he decided to keep *The Emperor's Club* focused on the issues of personal integrity and character.

The film works thanks to actors Kline, Hirsch and Dano. Hailed for his brave performance in last year's *L.I.E.* as a young Long Island teenager who finds a substitute father in the person of a sexual predator, Dano brings a similarly nuanced skill to the role of the student Martin Blythe who is betrayed by the switch in grades and yet refuses to be a *Dead Poet*-like victim. Hoffman relishes his work with Dano. "There's a kind of sincerity and vulnerability and a desire to do well which is so much part of him... There's also a



Kevin Kline goes toe to toe with Emile Hirsch

lightness in Paul... he doesn't hang around in the darkness, he has a great tremendous comic gift which cuts against the kind of pain that character has to experience in the movie so it doesn't get maudlin or sentimental, which is always a battle with these kind of movies, to keep it buoyed up."

Emile Hirsch started many with his work in *The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys*, trapped between an incest-damaged girlfriend and a walk-on-the-wildside trickster of a best friend, Hirsch alternated the current between passion and vulnerability, giving substance to *Altar Boys'* bittersweet ending. This time Hirsch plays the wild trickster. Hoffman admits he "was scared

about casting that role, because where are you going to find a 14-year-old kid who can go toe to toe with Kevin Kline, you really have to believe that this kid has an equal and threatening claim on the hearts and minds of his classmates and you've got Kevin up there who's a pretty intimidating presence as an actor. I put Kevin in the room with a couple of young actors and it had been really really unsettling and I thought, 'We're going to have to cast this older,' and then Emile came through the door. He shares with Kevin a kind of playfulness as an actor, an ability to listen and an ability to improvise, so Kevin responded immediately."

Hoffman and Kline first

worked together on the soap spoof *Soapdish*, on many a guilty-pleasure list for its zany star turns, with Kline devilishly funny as a past-his-prime dinner-theatre ham. Hoffman thanks Kline for bringing him the script for *The Emperor's Club* when a possible actors strike forced Kline to forgo making it his own directing debut.

The Emperor's Club is rich in almost buried treasures — a performance by Harris Yulin as a Lyndon Johnson-like senator who can turn on a dime from seducer to bully-and-back, and a school-yard baseball scene that has Kline hitting a home run — treasures that oddly mirror Hoffman's Boise, Idaho childhood, from which he was rescued by a selfless teacher, and during which he was buffeted by competing primal forces, a paternal grandfather who was a fire-and-brimstone preacher and maternal grandmother whose religion was baseball.

Hoffman remembers it was a blast to film the scene, which he thinks both anchors us to the Kline character's nostalgia for childhood and prepares us for the big ethical leap he will make with the grade change. "Although a lot of the kids, the actors, (were) fabulous actors, (they were) less talented as baseball players. The key grip whispered in my ear, 'St. Benedict's where academics come first! The kids couldn't pick up the ball and throw it to first base. That was the biggest challenge to it." ▼

Gene Kelly

◀ Arts cover

pointing *Christmas Holiday* at Universal.

MGM reclaimed him in 1945's *Anchors Away*, co-starring Frank Sinatra, a smash that earned him a Best Actor Oscar nomination. He choreographed, and his number with the cartoon mouse of *Tom and Jerry* fame was a technological

breakthrough. He and Astaire hoisted together in *The Ziegfeld Follies* (1946), but their number was poor, although confirming their equal status. He was *Living in a Big Way* (1947) before re-teaming with Garland for Porter's bizarre *The Pirate* (1948), directed by Vincente Minnelli. He was an athletic D'Artagnan in the rousing, nonmusical *The Three Musketeers*, another hit, then ended the year in *Words and Music*, dancing memo-

rably with Vera-Ellen in "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue."

Donen devised 1949's *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*, a turn-of-the-century comedy with Esther Williams and Sinatra — another smash. Kelly went *On the Town* with Sinatra, Vera-Ellen, and Ann Miller — a brilliant musical about three sailors with 24 hours' leave in New York. Kelly and Donen co-directed. Surprisingly, he followed with 1950's Mafia drama, *The Black Hand*, then joined Garland in *Summer Stock*.

Rain country

As *An American in Paris* (1951), directed by Minnelli with music by the Gershwins, Kelly devised his most adventurous choreography, including a 20-minute ballet. It won the Best Picture Oscar. Despite some marvelous moments, today the classical dance sequences seem slow and pretentious. His finest film followed, co-directing with Donen and *Singin' in the Rain*. (See sidebar.) He ended 1952 as a Greek immigrant insisting *It's a Big Country*.

He did a German thriller, *The Devil Makes Three*, then in England filmed the ambitious but disastrous *Invitation to the Dance*. MGM delayed its release until 1956, when it was lambasted by critics. He made a comedy, *Crest of the Wave* (1954), then starred in Minnelli's awful version of Lerner & Loewe's *Brigadoon*. He and brother Fred appeared in *Deep in My Heart*, before he found it's *Always Fair Weather* (1955), about three soldiers in New York. It couldn't touch *On the Town*. Samuel Goldwyn offered *Sky Masterson in Guys and Dolls*, but MGM refused. He directed and starred in 1957's *The Happy Road*, about runaway kids in France, but no one saw it. He ended the year in George Cukor's *Les Girls*, as a

musical-comedy star.

At his request, MGM released him, and he went to Warners for *Margorie Morningstar* (1958) with Natalie Wood, a poor version of Herman Wouk's novel. On Broadway, he choreographed Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Flower Drum Song*, and was good as the reporter in *Inherit the Wind* (1960). In the '60s, he filmed several television specials and had a brief series, *Going My Way*, based on Bing Crosby's old part. He was one of Shirley MacLaine's ill-fated husbands in *What a Way to Go* (1964), playing an over-the-hill hoover — their number was charming. But Jacques Demy's *Les Demoiselles de Rochefort* (1966) bombed.

He directed *The Tunnel of Love* (1958), *Gigot* (1962), *A Guide for the Married Man* (1967), all poor, then guided Barbra Streisand's bloated flop, *Hello, Dolly!* (1969). He helmed a Western, *The Cheyenne Social Club* (1970), played Liv Ullmann's ex-husband in *Forty Carats* (1973), and hosted some clips from MGM musicals in the popular *That's Entertainment* (1974). He joined Astaire introducing *That's Entertainment II* (1976), a disappointment. They danced gingerly and touchingly, while confirming that time had indeed sped by. He yelled *Viva Knievel* (1977) and visited *Xanadu* (1980), with Olivia Newton-John. On television, he went *North and South* (1985) and committed *Sin* (1986) with Joan Collins.

His 17-year marriage to actress Betsy Blair (Marty) ended in divorce in 1957. In 1960, he married dancer Jean Coyne, who died in 1973.

As a director, he seems to have been effective only in staging dances. As a performer, Kelly made dancing virile and fun. That alone assures his place in Hollywood's firmament. ▼

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Josh Weston shines, but film flops

Flaccid direction undermines 'Deep South'

by John Karr

When we left off, I was complaining that the dour story and egregious editing in Falcon's *No Way Out* weren't suitable gift wrap for their supercharged stars. The same is doubly true for *Deep South: The Big and the Easy* (FVO 144/145), basically because it's double length. But although I found the dense plotting and ill-judged continuity of the two-parter to be a nadir of the company's obsession with porn drama, I'm wary of being dour myself. So I'm trying to disregard the Falcon crew's filmmaking aspirations and just concentrate on the movie's sex. I only wish they'd do the same.

So here's the good news. It's easy to get hung up on the pell-mell nobility of Josh Weston's cock. His flat, chiseled body (hard muscle soothed by his skin's moonlit cool), with hyaline features, cinnamon hair, and, most beguiling of all, the arresting command of huge and slightly melancholic eyes — all these plus a strong yet quiet spoken demeanor have made him most deserving of a starring vehicle. *Deep South* serves him up with worthy partners in multiple scenes. Although the movie offers nibbles of some of its other stars, it's no mere nosh of Josh, who opens the movie by

Karrnal Knowledge

sizzler Vince D'Onno, and closes it in a nearly equivalent, though somewhat brief, lust-bout with co-stars Jack Ryan and Jeremy Jordan.

Spunkly little Jordan spectacularly gives up his cutie bootie to a crowd of gangbangers. Frisky pup Tommy Brandt, as mentioned last week, unleashes a flash flood of a fuck in his encounter with Josh, and the always delectable Nino Bacci is once again a treat with lothario Jack Ryan. Duets for Aaron Parker and Race Jenson (who returns to porn looking godlike after nearly a decade's absence), as well as Josh with megahunk Matthew Rush are both steamy beauty bonanzas, but register mild disappointment for being inexplicably rushed. Had a poorly conceived backroom scene and a side trip to the police station for an irrelevant visit with Chris Steele and Jason Hawke been ditched, there would have



A man with impressive assets: *Deep South* star Josh Weston.

been room to treat these scenes as fully as their stars deserved.

And what we most certainly didn't deserve was a story that is not only convoluted beyond comprehension, but confusingly told

in asides, flashbacks, and little burps of quick-cut info-bites. *Deep South* is not only unbelievable, but abounds in inconsistencies and loose ends. Example: a mysterious phone caller tells Josh he

better be at the masked orgy, but

hangs up without providing the time or place. Cut to Josh being passed into the event with the invitation he presents. Now, which is it: fragment of a phone call or invitation? If that seems a minor mess-up, how about a really big one: Part One ends startlingly with Jeremy's father being murdered right in front of him, but in all of Part Two there's not a single mention of the event. And the movie's final wrap-up is completely incredulous. Please, someone, send me an explanation. It took both John Rutherford and Chi Chi LaRue to direct *Deep South*, which I must say was beautifully filmed in a variety of New Orleans' locations. But didn't the left hand know what the right was doing?

Poolsides romp in sunny 'HeadGames'

Since I've a hunch Chi Chi feels I'm somehow out to get him

(his company stopped sending me review copies after I dissed his *Back Row* remake), I'm glad to announce that all four generous scenes of his latest Jocks' effort, *HeadGames* (JVP113) are a thorough success. *HeadGames* is a sunny poolside romp with fresh young men who are playfully, earnestly, horny. Jeremy Jordan is cuter than ever doing a pogo stick on the broad and sturdy cock of athletic Josh Harting, and Anthony Shaw is an always appreciable performer who looks sharp and outdoes himself wrapping everything he's got around the big boner of young stud Alex Le Monde. Harting is back, thankfully, for some Speedo-stretching foreplay with Ty Parks, whose blushing pink cock sports a wide leather cockring; it's surprising and very tasty on such a clean-cut kid. When husky, salt-n-peppered daddy Colton Ford plays with a trio of smoothies, he's a marked contrast to the movie's studmuffins. However horny, theirs is the blithe romp of youth; Colton gets down to business. Travis Reed's cock has extra sproing, and Jerek's cock is extra long, but Colton's best part has got to be his bulging thighs, which strain like living steel when he squats in succession on each boy's face. And then Colton gets his licks in, preparing Travis' two lane tunnel of love for some plowing that leads to a three man fuck chain.

Compare the insouciant *HeadGames* to the overworked *Deep South* and you see that sex is such an easy thing — when you just let it happen. ▼

Alcina

◀ page 37

was the star. Not only did she look like a hormonal male adolescent hottie, but she has a bravura manner, singing with relentless intensity. My companion got tired of her, but I didn't. It was such a confidant performance that it overcame most of the silly stagging.

And, whatever one may feel about Alcina's character, or about Catherine Naglestad's unique soprano — this is a voice almost as arrestingly odd as Maria Callas'

though in better shape — the San Jose-born singer is a powerful advocate for both the sorceress's unbridled sexuality and her utter defeat when, instead of turning her lover into a beast as is her want, he dumps her.

Being dumped romantically is one of the most painful experiences in human relations, and Handel gives Alcina several splendid arias in which to deal with her anguish. Unfortunately, by the last act, all that running around and falling down (and possibly the stress of making her debut with a company that rejected her years ago) seemed to have taken its toll

on Naglestad's vocal stamina. The result was a lot of sudden scooping and intonation problems just when she needed to be at her strongest.

The rest of the cast was adequate to its tasks, but no more than that. In the raised pit, conductor Roy Goodman didn't lead so much as accompany with rhythmic indifference. One always misses Charles Mackerras, but never so much as when there is inconsistent employment of appoggiatura (grace notes) throughout, and florature (decorations) in the A sections of the otherwise-endless da capo arias. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Neo-Dandy!

To witness *The Neo-Dandy Cabaret* is to experience some of the most offbeat performance art existent, as out-there as can be, and wonderfully entertaining. I caught the preview of the act at the 11th-anniversary celebration last weekend at 848 Community Space — that funky experimental-art/dance/performance space on Divisadero where so many great talents have been nurtured — and segments from *Neo-Dandy* were presented as part of a line-up that included movement artists Kathleen Hermendorf, Cinzia Sperou Gloekler, Miguel Gutierrez, and Rachel Shaw, along with three-string banjo wizard Jeffrey Alfonso Mooney.

What capped the night for me, and made me marvel anew at the genius of 848's dancer/choreographer/director Keith Hennessy, were the excerpts from *The Neo-Dandy Cabaret*. This pastiche of a show opens for an extended run (December 5-29) at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. It was workshopped at 848 under Hennessy, who bills himself as an instigator, and that's the appropriate term. Long recognized as one of the most original dancer/choreographers in the Bay Area and beyond, Hennessy has rounded up a group of recognized madcap geniuses, each of whom has established reputations and devoted followings, and given them a context to display their talents solo and in combination.

Utterly captivating in this crew is Reginald Lamar, founder and lead singer of the rock/experimental band Mutilated Mannequins, who has long been revered in the underground scene for his out-of-this world operatics. This striking being projects one of the most stunningly original personas in the music world today, the nobility of his blackness apparent in every tick of his face, movement of his torso, and flick of his wrist. Outfitted in a leather corset of magnificent craftsmanship, decked out in braids and flowing hair that covers his exposed nipples as chastely as Lady Godiva's, accompanied by a keyboardist, he raises his voice in soaring soprano arias edged with a weird, otherworldly unreality. Thank goddess for Hennessy harnessing this talent in a theatrical piece.

Then there's Kirk Read, who comes off as your average gay twenty-something author (he wrote *How I Learned to Snap*) — a plain-Joe easygoing everyday queer — but his mind is truly and deliciously warped. He had the house rocking with his tale of a major earthquake, during which a couple engage in the loving, intimate act of fistng, oblivious to the world collapsing around them.

The glue in this concoction is the artist known as Mattilda (aka Matt Bernstein Sycamore, author of *Tricks and Treats: Sex Workers Write About their Clients*), who bounces around as the most insane clown ever, outdoing even Nambala the Clown in her hysterics and wild outfitting, as fem/fey as they come, but with a fierce energy that says: "Watch Out!" Hennessy choreographs things so that Mattilda's impassioned, hilarious, disturbing tirades on social injustice work like Saturday morning cartoon segments. ▼

'The Neo-Dandy Cabaret' opens December 5 at NCTC. See Thursday.



Commemorate World AIDS Day with "The Life and Times of Reggie Williams," a multimedia exhibit at The Center. See Sunday

Fri

BAAITs @ The Center

Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits (BAAITs) holds its Monthly Community Potluck. Bring food, non-alcoholic drinks, songs, poems, or something to raffle or share. The potlucks happen the last Friday of every month. 7-9 pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street (at Octavia). For room #, check board upon entering. Info/RSVP: email bayarea2spirits@hotmail.com or call 865-5616.

Queer Jitterbugs @ The Stud

Every Friday event: Jive Dancing practice and fun — free! 7:30-9pm. Also: 6:30pm basic drop-in progressive East Coast Swing lesson (only \$5). New teachers. No partner or experience needed. 21+w/ID. 399 9th St. (at Harrison). Info: 305-8242; queerjitterbugs.com

Lorraine Hansberry Theatre

Annual Holiday Classic: Langston Hughes' *Black Nativity*, featuring Gospel artist Arvis Strickling Jones in this African American celebration of the birth of Christ. Directed by Stanley E. Williams. \$22 Thu Fri (\$26 Priority Central Orchestra); \$27 Sat (\$32 Priority); \$25 Sun (\$30 Priority). 8pm (4pm Sun). 620 Sutter St. Tix/info: 474-8800; lorrainehansberrytheatre.com

Sat

Dean Lesher Center, Walnut Creek

"Cabaret in Concert 2002," the "Thanks for Giving Gala," a benefit for The Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano, hosted by cabaret/theatre stars Lisa Bowman and Samantha Samuels. Musical direction by Joe Barnett. Staging by Dennis Lickteig. With special guest star Kenny Mazlow, artistic director of Steve Silver's Beach Blanket

Babylon. \$22. 8pm. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tix/info: 925-943-SHOW (7469).

Queer Jitterbugs @ The Stud

Queer Jitterbugs celebrates its anniversary with "Swing Session," sponsored in part by the SF Project "The Adoption Option for Parenting with Pride." All ages. No partner or experience needed. 6:30pm basic east coast swing lesson; 7:30pm lesson by award-winning guest instructors; 9pm-midnight dancing to the mighty sounds of the live band Swing Session! Come dance or just watch. \$10 adv.; \$15 door. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 305-8242; queerjitterbugs.com

ODC Theater

Concert: "Looking Back, Looking Forward," featuring ODC Theater Artist-in-Residence Wayne Wallace & Friends premiering commissioned pieces and playing selections from their past CDs *Echoes in Blues* and *3 in One*. Composer/trombonist Wallace, his septet and 11-piece ensemble, Rhythm & Rhyme, draw on a wide array of influences from the African Diaspora, particularly Afro-Caribbean culture and jazz. \$15 adv.; \$18 door. 8pm. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix/info: 863-9834; odctheater.org

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Point Reyes Sky Train Sunset Hike. Enjoy walking down to the ocean for sunset, and then a flashlight hike back. Moderate 11-mile hike with an 1,800-ft. elevation gain. Meet 2:45pm under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

'Palladium' @ Sound Factory

Gus Presents "Palladium," a night of high energy house with DJs Neil Lewis (Sanctuary; Pleasuredome) and Arkay (Sugar). Cooking Vinyl Records release party for "Cruelty Without Beauty," the new album from Soft Cell, featuring the single "Moonculture." Enter to win tickets to see Soft Cell at the

Warfield on Dec. 6. \$5 b4 10:30pm w/flyer, web ad; \$15 gen'l w/flyer, web ad. 9:30pm-hella late. 525 Harrison St. (near 1st St.). Info: guspresents.com

Sun

SF Main Library

In commemoration of World AIDS Day, the San Francisco Public Library's Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center presents a reading to honor the 10th anniversary of the death of Steve Abbott, influential gay poet, critic and writer who died of AIDS in 1992, whose papers are housed in the Hormel Center. Steve's daughter Alyssia Abbott will be joined by writers Dodie Bellamy (*Cunt Ups*), Kevin Killian (*Poet Be Like God: Jack Spicer and the San Francisco Renaissance*, with Lewis Ellingham), Robert Glück (*Margery Kempe; Jack the Modernist*) and others in remembering Steve Abbott's life and work. Free. 2pm. Latino Hispanic Community Meeting Room.

SF LGBT Community Center

Opening reception: "The Life and Times of Reggie Williams," a multimedia exhibit series held in loving tribute to Black gay AIDS activist Williams, co-founder and executive director (1988-94) of the National Task Force AIDS Prevention, the first nation-wide AIDS prevention organization targeting black gay men. Curated by Wolfgang Schreiber (with Julie Potratz) as a loving tribute to his late partner. Featuring Williams' life in photographs, music, art, documentary videos and personal items. View "Reggie — His Last Year," a compilation video (70 min.) by Schreiber, featuring Williams' last public appearance in Amsterdam at that city's Gay Pride celebration in 1998, and the couple's Partnership Registration ceremony in October '98. Co-sponsored by the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California, the LGBT Community Center, and Black Brothers Esteem, of project of the SF AIDS Foundation. Free. 7:30pm. Ceremonial Room. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). 18:00-8pm.

Ruby Skye

"Donna Sachet's Songs of the Seasons," A Special Tenth Year Anniversary Show benefit for Shanti and the children of



Celebrated San Francisco poet Steve Abbott will be remembered and celebrated on World AIDS Day at the Main Library's Hormel Center. See Sunday.

fitting the SF AIDS Emergency Fund. A musical night with Sachet, Sharon McNight, Jo-Carol, Kathleen Antonia, TJ & Sheba, SDK, and Lonnie Tuck, among other stellar talents. Honorary Hosts: Mayor Willie L. Brown, Chris Carnes, Lucius Conrad, Marcus Hernandez, Warren Hinckle, Audrey Joseph, Assembleyman-elect Mark Leno, Harry Lit, Scott Mandell, Gail B. Masse, Armitstead Maupin, Dr. Kathleen McGuire, Peter Polous, Empress Jose Sarria, Betty Sullivan, Bruce Vilanch, Jan Wahl, and Teddy Witherington. Sponsored in part by: Lucius Conrad, Bob Ross/Bay Area Reporter, Daddy's Bar/Joe Granese, The Edge/Don McMartin, Marlene's/Empress Marlene, Michael Floyd & Dean Carriko, Josephine Lott, KSR Associates, and others. An RMB Productions event. \$50 premium; \$35 general admission. 6:30pm reception; 7:30pm show. 420 Mason St. Tix: 695-1942.

Under One Roof

Wine tasting and sale to benefit Under One Roof in its efforts to raise unrestricted funding for nearly 50 different HIV/AIDS service organizations. A World AIDS Day event featuring wines donated from Napa and Sonoma County wineries (Paradigm, Niebaum-Coppola, vineyard 29, Viader and more) as well as light refreshments and Joseph Schmidt truffles. 5:30-8pm.

Plush Room

Bruce E. Phillips and eCabaret-SF.com present "Teddy Care 2002," a benefit for Shanti and the children of

SF General Hospital. Hosted by Darlene Popovic, featuring Wesla Whitfield, Jacqui Nayor, Lisa Viggiano, Shayne Rainbolt, and Beach Blanket Babylon's Renee Lubin. \$15 plus a brand new teddy bear. 7:30pm. Also on Dec. 8 & 15. The York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix: 885-2800.

Herbst Theatre

The Omni Foundation for the Performing Arts presents Uruguayan classical guitar virtuoso Eduardo Fernandez, who has recorded 17 albums with Decca, including concerti with the world's leading orchestras. \$24, \$34. 7pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix: City Box Office, 392-4400. Info: 888-400-0MNI; omniconcerts.com

Sadie's Flying Elephant

"K'Vesh," queer spoken word readings and open mic. Hosted by Lynn Breedlove and Tara Jepson. \$1 admission. Sign-ups at 7:30pm; show at 8pm. 491 Potrero (on the corner of Mariposa). It happens the first Sunday of every month.

Mon

'QComedy' @ The Center

"QComedy Showcase," in which Janis Lipton hosts a hilarious lineup of the city's best queer and queer-friendly comedians, featuring Bridget Schwartz, Blake Smith and many more. \$8-\$15 sliding. Doors 7:30pm; show 8pm. Tix: 865-5633; harveymilk.org. Info: QComedy.com

Queer Jitterbugs @ Jon Sims Center

Original swing dance classes start the first Monday of every month. Tonight kicks off a 4-week LGBT Lindy Hop Class. All ages. No partner/experience needed. 7pm: "Level 1 Plus" (beyond the basics transitional level). 8pm: "Level 1" for beginners. 9pm: SF's only all-queer "Level 2" swing class. \$13 a lesson (under 21 half off). \$40 per session prepay; \$70 couples. 1519 Mission St. Info: 305-8242; queerjitterbugs.com.

SomArts Cultural Center

Opening: "Still Here," a transit shelter/public billboard art project about AIDS in the 21st Century, created by Bay Area artists Sharon Siskin (founder of Positive Art), Nancier Le Moins, and Robert



Beach Blanket Babylon's Kenny Mazlow joins in a "Thanks for Giving Gala" at Walnut Creek's Dean Lesher Center. See Saturday.

Corti. Featuring 15 transit kiosk billboards, each bearing the phrase "Greetings from Market Street," along with a photographic portrait of a resident or art program participant of the Derek Silva Community (a housing and support community for low-income people who are HIV+) against a background of magnified red blood cells. The work reminds us that people living with the disease struggled with all its ramifications, despite rosy media images of people downing drug cocktails and returning to a pre-AIDS lifestyle. 934 Brannan St. Info: 552-2131.

Arts & Crafts Fair @ SFSU

"Associated Students Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair," featuring more than 30 vendors of fine handcrafted goods. Free. 9am-7pm Thru Thu, Dec. 5. Cesar Chavez Student Center, San Francisco State University, 1650 Holloway Ave. Info: 338-2444; aspa-sfsu.org

Green Room

The Left Coast Chamber Ensemble presents "The Bloodline of a String Quartet" concert featuring contemporary composer Lauri San Martin's *Sythe String Quartet* as well as Ludwig van Beethoven's *String Quartet in A minor, Op. 132*, and Felix Mendelssohn's *String Quartet No. 2 in A major, Op. 13*. The works are related in that the musical material is played, transformed, and repeated. \$19 (\$14 students/seniors). 8pm. War Memorial Performing Arts Center, 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: Chamber Music Partnership, 642-8054.

Jue

Plush Room

World AIDS Day Concert presented by Artists Against AIDS, featuring international jazz & R&B vocalist Jacqui Naylor in a very special evening of music. Naylor and Master Pianist Art Khu premiere the World AIDS Day CD single release "I Remember You," written by Joe Wilson from the Hard Candy Project. Help complete the CD project by purchasing special holiday cards online. Donate \$100 to receive 2 tickets, a signed CD and your choice of holiday cards. 7:30pm. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Info: 885-2800. Info: www.artistagainstaids.com.

Jezebel's Joint

"Industry," a punk/industrial club with PRON, Rabbitron and guests. No cover. 9:30pm-2am. 510 Larkin (at Turk). 21+ w/ID.

Intersection for the Arts

Jazz at Intersection presents the Hirahara/Sickafuse/Amendola Trio, a young, leaderless, collective jazz ensemble that reinterprets jazz standards and brings fresh, new compositions to the table. Art Hirahara, piano; Todd Sickafuse, bass; Scott Amendola, drums. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. Tix/info: 626-3311; theintersection.org

Wed

Bazaar Cafe

Singer/songwriter Garrin Benfield (*Living A Dream; Nowhere Is Brighter*), just back from a triumphant tour of the deep South and Roc Mountain states, hosts the "GLBT Songwriter Series" tonight featuring Barnes (Loudboy and Blue Radio),



PepperSpray inflames passions at the Eagle, where rock rules. See Thursday

LA) and Marca Cassity. No cover (donations encouraged). 7:30pm. 5927 California St. Info: www.garrin.com

SF LGBT Community Center

"The Life and Times of Reggie Williams" continues with a retrospective of films by Marlon Riggs, beginning tonight with a screening of *No Regrets* (1992; 38 min.), including Reggie Williams and four other HIV positive black gay men. Riggs (1957-1994) was a close friend of Williams and his films describe the reality of black gay men in an often homophobic and racist society. *No Regrets* editor/associate producer Nicole Atkinson-Roach will talk about the making of the film. Co-hosted by Black Brothers Esteem, who will facilitate a discussion after the film. (The Riggs retrospective will continue at the Center on Dec. 19 and in Jan. & Feb. 2003.) Free. 7:30pm. Rainbow Room. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia).

ARTworkSF @ SomArts Gallery

ARTworkSF presents the 6th Annual "One Night Stand," an all-media exhibit of nude, erotic and fetish art, a benefit for SomArts, Sex Information Hotline, and artresource.org. Featuring

John Abramson and Fernanda Reyes with 35 local artists, nude models working with artists to create "Art Live," racy cabaret, erotic poetry, and a sexy fashion show. Entertainment by Kitton on the Keys & Mr. Tinkler, Chablis and more. \$10-\$15. 6-9pm. 934 Brannan St. (btwn 8th & 9th sts.). Tix/info: 673-3808; artworks.org

The Stud

"STOOD UP," a diverse evening of stand-up comedy with your hosts Ronn Vigh and Pippi Lovestocking bringing in a new set of special guests each week. \$5 (or 2 for 1) b4 8pm. The Stud Bar, 9th & Harrison. Info: stoodups@hotmail.com

Thu

'Ba-da-Bingo! @ MCC

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence present a special holiday "Ba-da-Bingo!" — "A Jewish Christmas"! Thrill to a fabulous live band! Cringe to incredible entertainment! Win big cash prizes or one of several DVD players! The usual \$12 admission gets you 1st set of Bingo cards, door prize ticket, good luck charm, and entertainment. Special holiday VIP offer: for \$30, you get seating at one of two VIP tables, no waiting in line, a holiday cookie and two sets of Bingo cards! Your extra donation will help buy presents for children. "Ba-da-Bingo" raises money for the Sisters Social and Economic Justice Scholarship Fund and the Metropolitan Community Foundation. Every single penny raised by the GLBT community! Bingo games begin at 7pm. Seating limited. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. (near 18th St.). Info: www.theSisters.org/bingo.htm

The Eagle

Flaming tranny rock sensation PepperSpray tears up the stage with transgender activist Shawna Virago's Deadly Nightshade Family, with Seattle's Dolly Parton cover band The Parton Meis. Members of PepperSpray include

Miss Trannyshack 2001 Previous Moments: keyboardist Peggy L'eggs, guitarist/composer Tinkle (Peter Fogel of the Tuck 'n' Roll Players) and the infamous Von Blondenberg sisters Jordan L'Moore and Princess Kennedy. Drummer Kevin Kirkbride and bassist Tim Perdue hail from Enrique, The Tuck 'n' Roll Players and The Whoa Nellies. This year's SF Pride Parade Grand Marshal, Shawna Virago and her band the Deadly Nightshade Family are head-banging lo-fi provocateurs and feature powerhouse drummer Kjirsten Haaland.

\$5. 9pm. The Eagle Tavern, 12th and Harrison. Info: www.sfeagle.com; www.pepperspraytheband.com

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Opening night: "The Neo-Dandy Cabaret," Instigated and Directed by Keith Hennessy. Inspired by cabaret, vaudeville, Josie's Juice Joint and even Ed Sullivan, this queerly diverse variety show encourages fantastic re-imaging of gay male culture. Featuring randy spoken word by Mattilda and Kirk Read, dandy metal opera by Reginald, handy circus rituals by The Vong, and guests. Presented by NCTC in association with Counter PULSE & ZERO Productions. \$15-\$20. 8pm (2pm Sun.). Thursdays-Sundays, Dec 5-29. 25 Van Ness (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

A Different Light Bookstore

Douglas McEwan reads from *My Lush Life*. At the tender age of 103, the woman who put "tasteless bisexual, alcoholic, nymphomaniac" in the word "legend" tells all to a ghostwriter and possible kidnapper. Tallulah's giving up the goods on Hollywood. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891; adlbooks.com

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Tri-state match triumph

by Mister Marcus

The Tri-State Leather competition, held annually in Cincinnati, Ohio, encompasses leather competitors from Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky, and this year's event (held over the weekend of November 22-24) was no exception, but producer Nigel Cottrell announced that effective with the 2003 competition, the contest name will change to Mr. and Ms. Mid-States Leather. No longer will contestants be confined to just three states; leather men and women from all the states in that region will be eligible for the competition.

This year's event included the Ms. Title, and two women were competing along with the four men in a weekend-long party that brought out leather mavens from as far away as Stuttgart, Germany. It was a delight to join the judging panel, which included outgoing Mr. Tri-State Leather Frank Perko, American Leatherman Rich Trevino, American Leather Woman Tobin Britton, Mr. International Rubber William Schenkel, and Rebecca Harbert, Miss Upper Ohio Valley Leather and Mr. Olympus Leather Butch Arnold. David Shane (Great Lakes Drummer Boy 2001) was the alternate judge.

The four men, Eric Crouse, Michael Grant, Dennis Mascher and Kyle Robinson, joined Carrie Ann Crouse and Ruby Rose Sherman in the judging categories.

The men titillated the huge audience at the Bullfishes Bar, a spacious women's bar, after the obligatory personal interviews, leather image, speech and physique. There was a VIP reception at the host hotel on Friday followed by a meet and greet at the Pipeline Bar with a drag entertainer and raffles.

On Saturday morning came the judging interviews, even while a leather mart and workshops were in progress.

The principals of the weekend all joined together at Hamburger Mary's prior to the contest for a fine dinner.

Bullfishes was decked out in leather pride colors as everyone assembled for the event, which was preceded by the Leather Anthem, the parade of colors and the introduction of the emcees.



The four male contestants at Tri-State Leather 2003, from left, were Dennis Mascher (winner), Mike Grant, Kyle Robinson (1st runner-up) and Eric Crouse.

Mister Marcus

The contest began in earnest with the female contestants providing provocative fantasies. Carrie Ann was Little Red Riding hood who prevailed over the "wolf" in the end. Ruby Rose chose a construction theme, and studded an unsuspecting male laborer to a cross before having her way with him. The house went wild!

In his 11-minute step aside speech, Frank Perko managed to impress the need for cooperation among all factions of the greater LGBTQ communities to combat those oppressors who would rather we did not exist. His philosophical approach was met with a standing ovation. He's certainly one of the most popular leather title holders I've had the pleasure of dealing with during the current contest season.

Jon Krongaard, representing the Leather Archives and Museum, gave a short presentation on the progress of the museum in Chicago, adding a plea for generous donations to continue the work being done there.

Don Leach, that handsome Great Lakes Leather Sir, was among the visiting title holders and was called upon to draw numbers for the raffle prizes. The moment of truth arrived around 2230, when Nigel advised the audience that the title name would be changed and his decision to include women in the competition.

Ruby Rose Sherman was an-

nounced as the first ever Ms. Tri-State Leather 2002; handsome Kyle Robinson was named the first runner-up; and Dennis Mascher of Indianapolis was named Mr. Tri-State Leather 2003. There was a rush to the stage, with flash bulbs popping, well-wishers hooraying, and the usual hoopla after a major competition.

The victory brunch was held at Serpents Bar on Sunday morning, with celebrations all around. Dennis Mascher will advance to compete at IML next May, and Ruby Rose advances to compete at IML in Omaha in 2003. The Tri-State Leather weekend was pronounced a huge success, and Nigel was profuse in his thanks to all the volunteers, sponsors and businesses who cooperated in assuring a sterling production. Never been to Cincinnati? Hey, you owe it to yourself. The people are friendly, the leather community is absolutely "together" and the airport people are super nice!

On the home turf

Earlier in the week, it was one of the golden evenings last Wednesday night as the AIDS Emergency Fund celebrated its 20th anniversary with a big gala night in the Herbst Theatre and the Green Room of the War Memorial Building in San Francisco's Civic Center.

The ever-gracious, ever-charming Hank Planté of KPIX (Channel 5) served as the master of ceremonies, and the place was

next page ►

E V E N T U R E S I N L E A T H E R

Weekend, November 28-December 1

The leather spotlight shines on Toronto, Ontario this weekend as Mr. Toronto Leather Man, Inc. stages their mammoth big leather contest. The "usual suspects" will be there.

Friday, November 29

Mr. Northern California Sir, Eric Partridge and Northern California Leather Boy David host a victory/celebration party at the Eagle which is also a benefit for Sonoma County AEF. No time given at my deadline.

Saturday, November 30

My B.A.R. colleague, Sweet Lips, celebrates his 80th birthday today from 1400-1700 at the Club Rendez-Vous on Polk Street, with special presentation and honors. They're reviving the "Hanging of Sweet Lips" too, so it should be fun.

In New Hope, Pennsylvania, the Bucks MC launch their annual Santa Saturday fundraiser at this 29th annual event. Last year they raised \$20,000 in less than six hours! At the Cartwheel in New Hope at 1300.

Sunday, December 1

The Forum of SF stages their annual Christmas Party at Harvey's on Folsom today from 1800-2100, with a buffet dinner and cocktails. Admittance by club overlay or invitation in hand.

Donna Sachet's "Songs of the Season" annual Christmas show at Ruby Skye. It may be sold out by now, but if you can, you must attend.

Wednesday, December 4

Boy Bust party at 933 Harrison tonight (doors open from 2100 to 2300). \$5/members, \$10/non-members.

Saturday, December 7

Golden Gate Guards MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon but at my deadline, no details.

SF Leather Daddy Tony hosts a toy drive party at the Edge Bar from 2000 to 2300. Bring unwrapped toys and celebrate the season.

Alameda County Leather Corps annual Santa's Slave Auction at the Turf Club where you bid on "services" by talented people. Lenny Broberg and Jeff Tucker share MC honors. Also collecting toys for Mama's toy drive.

Ride 'em cowboy!

Celebrate World AIDS Day

by Sweet Lips

Well, now that I'm 80, I feel like a bucking bronco! Yessere, and just in time, too because on Sunday, December 1st, that stallion of a man Eric Hanson, Mr. Golden State Gay Rodeo Association 2003, will be here at Club Rendez-Vous to host a fundraiser for his outfit. The cowboys will be decked out in the finest when the 49'ers take on the Seattle Seahawks, and we all watch together on big-screen TV. Proceeds for the beer bust, an all-you-can-eat food buffet, and a football pool will benefit the Bay Chapter of the GSGRA. Some come on down to 1312 Polk Street beginning at 1:15 p.m., and we'll give you steers a ride! Hold onto your cowboy hats! If you want more details, call Club Rendez-Vous at 309-2582 or visit the GSGRA-BAC website at www.bayarearodeo.com

Now don't forget that December 1st is World AIDS Day, and lots of events will be happening.

For a truly inspiring event, be sure to catch "Donna Sachet's Songs of the Seasons." It's a Special Tenth Year Anniversary Show benefiting the SF AIDS Emergency Fund. Donna will be joined by Sharon



Donna Sachet



Cocktail Hour

McNight, Jo-Carol, Kathleen Antonia, TJ & Sheba, SDK, and Lonnie Tuck and all your other favorites. This shindig is sponsored in part by *Bay Area Reporter* publisher Bob Ross, so you know it's going to be a great time! The tickets are \$50 premium; \$35 general admission. The reception happens at 6:30 p.m., and the main show starts at 7:30 p.m. Ruby Skye is located at 420 Mason Street.

Give them a call at 965-1942.

Also for great entertainment and a moving tribute, catch the effervescent Darlene Popovic at the Plush Room, performing a "Teddy Care 2002" show benefiting Shanti and the children of SF General Hospital. Some great performers will be on hand, including Jacqui Naylor, Lisa Viggiano, Shaynee Rainbolt, Bruce E. Phillips and Beach Blanket Babylon's Renee Lubin. Tickets are \$15 plus a new teddy bear. Call the Plush Room at 415-885-2800 for reservations.

At the Hormel Center in the Main Library, which of course was founded by that fine gentleman James Hormel, who knows a steer when he sees one, there will be a literary event in honor of a local poet who died of AIDS, Steve Abbott. Check it out at 2 p.m. in the Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room in the lower level of the library at 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

Last but not least on December 1, over in Berkeley at the First Congregational Church, you can catch a concert by Chanticleer, the internationally-acclaimed 12-man *a cappella* ensemble directed by Joseph Jennings. It's their Christmas Program, with carols, medieval and Renaissance music and spirituals, so it should be uplifting. The tickets are \$37 and \$34 reserved and \$25 general admission, and the program begins at 7 p.m. at 2345 Channing Way in Berkeley. You can get tickets at City Box Office (415-392-4400) or on the web at cityboxoffice.com. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

packed with loads of community leaders, entertainers, supporters and volunteers on hand to witness the awarding of accolades to die-hard people who support the AEF in more ways than I can count.

Know that leather people Lenny Broberg, Mama "Sandy" Reinhardt and Alan Selby were honored, as well as bare-chest calendar photographer James Scott Geras.

It was one of those unforgettable nights, worthy of recognition not only to leather people but others in the community. The whole event worked on a tight schedule that was perfectly exe-

cuted, from the gourmet goodies served before the ceremony to the fabulous desserts afterward. You couldn't have asked for a better evening.

It was great seeing my AEF co-chair Sharon McNight. Again, many thanks and heaps of accolades to all those who volunteer in whatever capacity they are able. The community's allegiance to the AIDS Emergency Fund is strong, intact and absolutely appreciated. The volunteers know that the people who benefit from the AEF services are people they will never meet. But know how much appreciated your efforts are to countless thousands who have managed to survive being positive and those with breast cancer problems. It was suggested that night that the

slogan, "The City that Knows How," be changed to "The City that Does." Hey, I go along with that notion!

The holiday season is upon us. Parties, get-togethers, fund raisers, dinners and general frivolity prevail despite the sour economy, the less-than-desirable political leadership in the nation's capital, the impending war, and the runoff elections. It is time to celebrate and be joyful for what we have, and to help the less fortunate.

I am sure I'll see you out and about! Until next week then, to find out what your leather brothers and sisters are doing around the world, click on www.LeatherPage.com for informative and unbiased coverage. ▼

Singin' in Rain

◀ Arts cover

talks like a Bronx waitress.

Since image is everything, the studio scrambles to protect its prized investment, with even more comic results. The witty dialogue is deftly mixed with some of the most famous musical numbers in movie history, not least of which is Kelly's performance of the title song. Even after countless viewings, it remains fresh. He's at his best here — his working-class, macho brashness has just the right edge — as is Donald O'Connor, whose superb dancing matches Kelly's. A 20-year-old

Debbie Reynolds is engaging as the ingenue. But the picture belongs to the flawlessly self-centered and shrewd Hagen. Although Lina is not educated, she's nobody's fool. Hagen's performance is hilarious, a timeless comic characterization.

Kelly co-directed with Stanley Donen, although it seems he focused primarily on the choreography. Betty Comden and Adolph Green wrote the brilliant screenplay, modeled in part on the career of major silent-screen star Norma Talmadge. Her New York accent was a sharp contrast to her *soigné* image, and she failed to make the transition to talkies. Her sister, Constance, had also been a

popular silent-screen actress but quit when sound came in, sending Norma a famous telegram: "Leave them while you're looking good, and thank God for the trust funds momma set up."

This is probably the greatest musical comedy ever filmed, and one of the few that is both sidesplittingly funny and tuneful. Amazingly, it received only two Oscar nominations (Hagen, Best Supporting Actress; and Scoring), winning neither. The Academy's Best Picture selection that year was Cecil B. DeMille's dreadful *The Greatest Show on Earth*, a misnomer of epic proportions. But half-a-century later, there's little doubt that *Singin' in the Rain* is a masterpiece. ▼

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Castro. Castro Street Gift Shops, you: leather plus cap+tattoos. Me: shorts plus blue top. Saw you later with grey sweatshirt. Let's talk. I want to be your friend. ☎ 72259

Max's Diner On 3rd Sat Oct 26
You: handsome man w/friends at next booth. Me: br/bl, go-tee, glass blue shirt w/friend. I left, you looked. My heart was pounding. Can we meet/talk? ☎ 72260

Jesse" Castro Halloween Party
You smiled, saying "hi", kissed me. Really! I can't stop it. It was a dream, so fast. I gave you my heart and soul, but your friends control you. My jealousy told me to go away. Know I can't forget you. "Brazilian in love. Let's try again. ☎ 72277

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Poz Looking For Real Man
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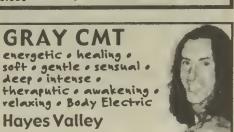
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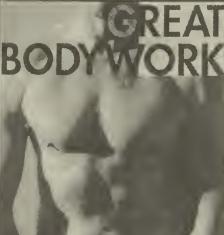
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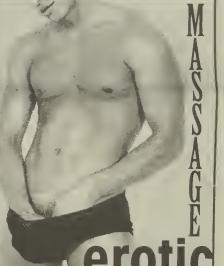
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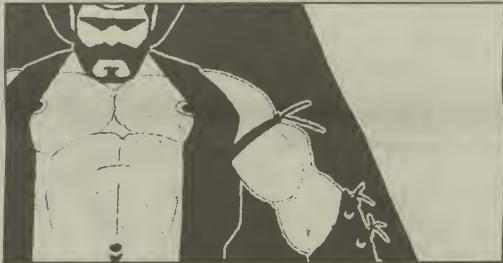
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AND ABOUT A HALF HOUR LATER...

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AND HE WANTS TO COME OVER!

HI. COME ON IN.
SORRY IT'S A
LITTLE MESSY.

THIS AIN'T BAD.
YOU SHOULD
SEE MY PLACE.

IT'S
A
DUMP!



AND EVEN LATER...

YOU ARE ONE
AMAZING PENIS.

THE NEXT DAY...

LAST NIGHT WAS
GREAT. SEE YA.

DON'T FORGET
YOUR...UH... FRIENDS.

WE'RE
STAYIN'
NOW MAKE US
SOME EGGS!



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